

Improving care for Stroke and TIA patients in east Dorset

June 2020



Stroke and Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA or 'mini-stroke') services in Poole and The Royal Bournemouth Hospitals are changing.

Significant developments will ensure our patients receive care in line with National guidance: improving outcomes following Stroke and TIA.

Stroke Services

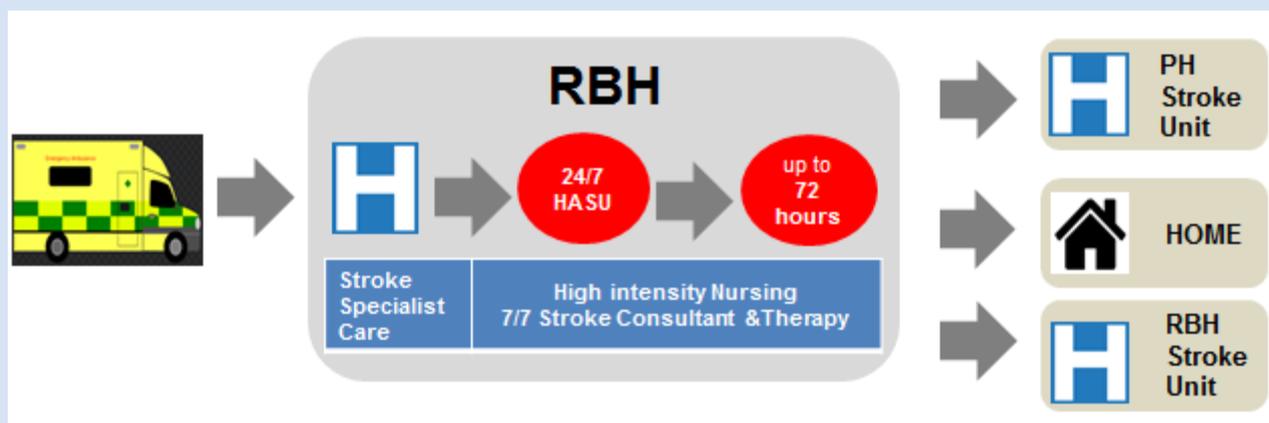
We are very proud of our Stroke services in Poole and The Royal Bournemouth Hospitals which are nationally recognised as being high quality. However there are a few areas where there is room for improvement. One of these is in the first 72 hours after stroke where we know that patients are more likely to recover if they receive care on a Hyper Acute Stroke Unit with higher intensity nursing, access to rapid diagnostic scans and daily access to stroke specialist consultants and Therapists. Currently neither hospital is able to provide weekend ward rounds with Stroke Consultants, high dependency Nursing or consistent 7-day Therapy.

We have been working together with our clinicians, our patients and with our partners, such as the Ambulance Trust and The Stroke Association, to develop and test plans for improving our services in line with National Guidance.



From 7th September 2020, anyone who is suspected to have had a stroke will be admitted to The Royal Bournemouth Hospital where there will be a Hyper Acute Stroke Unit including higher intensity nursing, a 7-day Stroke Consultant service and 7-day Therapy. Patients will stay on the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit for up to 72 hours following their stroke. If they need to stay in hospital for a longer period they will transfer onto the Stroke Unit. There will be a Stroke Unit at both Poole Hospital and The Royal Bournemouth Hospital. For those living in the Poole area, if they need to stay in hospital for more than a few days, they will be repatriated from The Royal Bournemouth Hospital back to the Stroke Unit at Poole Hospital to continue their recovery.

East Dorset Stroke Pathway



Learning from stroke service reconfigurations that have taken place across the UK, the provision of Hyper Acute Stroke Unit care results in a higher level of survival following a stroke, and better outcomes and quality of life after stroke. The changes we are implementing will benefit approximately 1300 people living within the local area every year. These changes also align with the recommendations for Stroke in the NHS Long Term Plan and have been endorsed by the Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) National Programme. Our Stroke reconfiguration plans have also been shortlisted for a British Medical Association award.

Word from the Stroke Association



“There are huge benefits for those patients that need specialist care. Having that experience and knowledge all in one place means that they are going to make the best possible recovery”

Sarah Day, Stroke Support Manager – Stroke Association

TIA Services

Alongside the changes to our Stroke pathway, we will also be making improvements to our Transient Ischaemic Attack Service. Transient Ischaemic Attack or ‘TIA’ is a “mini-stroke” when an individual experiences symptoms of a stroke for a short-lived period of time. TIA requires an urgent response to reduce risk of stroke.

From 20th July 2020, all weekday TIA appointments will be provided at Poole Hospital in a new dedicated TIA clinic suite. Through combining the TIA workforce from the two hospitals we will be able to provide more robust and sustainable TIA services away from the competing demands of the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit. These changes will benefit approximately 1700 suspected TIA patients per year.

For further information

Please view our short film which outlines the changes for Stroke and TIA services in east Dorset:

<https://youtu.be/l07Ki2yYeXA>

For further information about the future of our hospitals: <https://www.rbch.nhs.uk/index.php?id=2748>