



# Renal News

ISSUE 1



## DID YOU KNOW



Information about renal services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, patient information leaflets and links to support groups can be found on the Trust's website. We will be posting regular updates and copies of our newsletters on the website so you can view them at home.

[www.uhb.nhs.uk/renal](http://www.uhb.nhs.uk/renal)

## Welcome to Renal News



**Dr Clara Day**  
Renal Consultant

Welcome to the first edition of Renal News – our new bulletin about your renal dialysis service. There is currently a lot going on in our haemodialysis programme and through this

monthly newsletter we'll be keeping you up-to-date with all the changes and how you can get more information about the moves. We will also be including a range of information for haemodialysis patients such as how to get involved in research.

As you will know, Diaverum have been appointed to run four new units in Tipton, Aston, Kings Norton and Hereford, which

will be opening in November. The City unit will continue as it is for a few more months but will move to a new unit in Smethwick next summer (2015), run by UHB.

For those of you in Woodgate, Worcester, Sparkhill, Kidderminster and Llandrindod Wells there is no change at the moment for you but we hope you will find this information interesting.

We know this is going to be a busy time which can be unsettling, therefore we'll be working hard behind the scenes to ensure that the transition will be as smooth as possible, but please do contact us if you have concerns or questions.

**Dr Clara Day**  
Renal Consultant –  
University Hospitals Birmingham  
NHS Foundation Trust



## Units scoop awards

Three of the dialysis units in the West Midlands have been recognised for the quality of their care. Sparkhill and Woodgate Valley have received Fresenius Medical Care's (FMC) gold award for their clinical outcomes after being consistently ranked amongst the top five performing FMC units in the country for eight months. The Tipton unit received the bronze medal after 4 months top 5 out of the 50 FMC dialysis units.

# Work on new Tipton unit begins

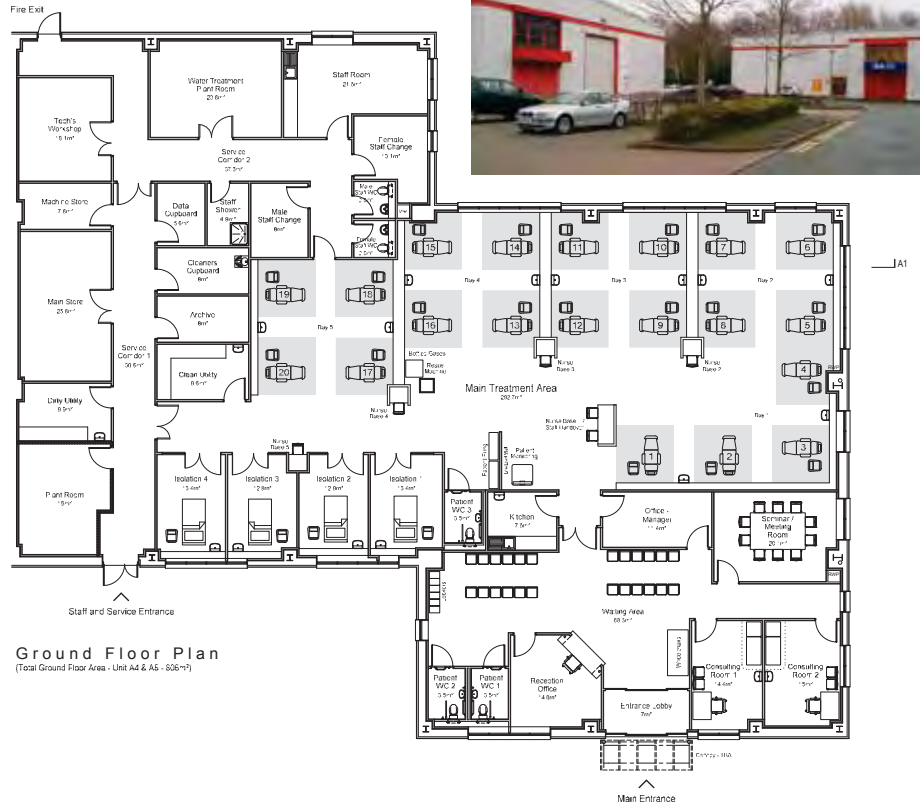
Construction work on a new dialysis unit for Tipton is underway. Building began on 1 April and is expected to take five months to complete the unit.

The purpose-built unit, which will be situated on George Henry Way in Great Bridge (DY4 7BU), is the first of four units to be built by Diaverum and is designed to offer modern, comfortable surroundings with maximum light and space.

The unit will have 20 dialysis stations, 4 isolation rooms and 2 consulting rooms as well as meeting rooms and staff facilities.

Kim Beak, Project Manager for Diaverum said: "We are really excited at the prospect of building a new unit from scratch to provide a clean, safe, comfortable environment which better meets the needs of our patients.

"It is a great opportunity for patients and staff to benefit from brand new equipment and facilities and to further improve patient care."



Ground Floor Plan  
(Total Ground Floor Area - Unit A4 & A5 - 608m<sup>2</sup>)

## Location, location, location

**Finding the right locations for new dialysis units has been a top priority for the team and much consideration has been given to making the sites as accessible as possible.**

We understand that travelling to and from dialysis sessions can be a source of anxiety for some patients therefore, in order to minimise travel disruptions, the proposed locations for the new units have been carefully planned to be as close to the existing units as possible - a number of the units are even on the same street.

At this stage, the proposed locations are subject to planning consent, therefore there is always the possibility that these may need to change. We hope to show you these in the next edition.



We understand that changing where you dialyse is a little concerning but we have worked hard with Diaverum to find properties that will be suitable for dialysis units as close as possible to your current unit. The designs look great and as soon as we have more to show you, we will do just that. ”

Dr Clara Day, Renal Consultant, UHB

# Improving patient facilities

In order to enhance the dialysis service, you may remember we carried out a survey just over a year ago when we asked patients what additional facilities would improve patient experience. Around half of patients told us they wanted better Internet access and 85 percent of patients said they wanted individual TVs to help pass the time while dialysing.

Taking the feedback on board, the new units will offer a range of facilities making the environment as comfortable as possible and patients will benefit from:

- ✓ Parking
- ✓ TV units for each bed space
- ✓ Internet access
- ✓ More space between stations
- ✓ New equipment / machinery



We have spent a lot of time looking into what size of unit is best for patient care. We feel that units with 20-24 stations are the optimum size. This allows the unit manager to get to know patients individually, address any issues promptly and better manage patient care. The new units at Tipton, Aston and Smethwick will all have 20 stations and Diaverum will continue to run twilight shifts.




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# Improving dialysis through research

Improvements in dialysis happen in a variety of different ways but changes can only be helpful to the wider dialysis population if we know that they are both safe and improve people's lives. This is where research comes into the picture. Research is simply a method of making changes in a systematic and controlled way and then observing the results. Sometimes all it involves is collecting a little extra data about a person however, when the results are analysed, we can understand whether the change may be useful and safe for all patients who dialyse.



**Mary Dutton**  
Senior Sister in  
Kidney Research

example, we are currently running studies looking at how much iron to give patients, low mood or depression in patients who dialyse and a new treatment that may help fistulas work better and last longer. One study that is coming to a close has examined how best to treat a cancer that causes kidney problems.

Improvements in care through research rely on people who are willing to take part in studies. Over the coming months, we will explain the different ways research is carried out and what it means for patients taking part in a study. We are keen that we can find ways of designing studies which cause the least disruption to your everyday lives, but still gather the high-quality data we need.

There is a growing level of interest in carrying out research with haemodialysis patients and as UHB has one of the largest and most diverse patient groups in the UK, we are ideally placed to lead in this field.

At any one time, we have several research studies running aimed at helping us to provide better care for our patients. For

We are also keen to get ideas from anyone who dialyses because we want to study subjects that matter to you. In the next newsletter we will be explaining how



to get involved and be part of this exciting drive to improve the care and quality of lives of people who dialyse.

In the mean time, if you are approached to take part in a study, please take the time to read the information given to you about the research and the staff involved. Taking part is always voluntary and we are always happy talk to you and answer any questions you may have.

**?** For further information about research, please get in contact with me or the team.

 Tel: 0121 697 8450

 Email: [mary.dutton@uhb.nhs.uk](mailto:mary.dutton@uhb.nhs.uk)



Say  
hello

## >> WELCOME FROM DIAVERUM

We are very privileged to be working in partnership with University Hospitals Birmingham, providing 4 new Dialysis clinics.

Our new clinics will be located in Kings Norton, Aston, Tipton and Hereford, providing Dialysis for over 450 patients.

Our programme of work is in the very early stages, but we will keep this site updated regularly with news and pictures, as we continue with our preparations ready for opening the clinics in the Autumn of this year.

During this time, if you have any comments or queries, please do not hesitate to contact our project manager, Kim Beak via details at the back of this newsletter.

I look forward, along with the rest of the Diaverum team to welcoming you to our new units soon.

Best wishes,

**Michael Hartnett**

Managing Director – Diaverum UK

## Come along and meet the Diaverum team and take look at the plans for the new units.

We are holding two open sessions on Sunday 27 April to give you opportunity to come and see the plans for the new sites yourselves. There will also be members of the construction team on hand to show you artists' impressions and answer questions.

At these sessions patients, relatives and staff will be able to ask questions and meet the Diaverum team – the project manager, managing director, lead nurse, HR manager and operations director. There will lots of info on working for Diaverum and information for staff about the new units.

We will put all your questions and most importantly the answers, on our website after the event so if you don't have time to pop along, you can still find out more from the team.

### We look forward to seeing you there!

Date:	Time:	Venue:
Sunday 27th April 2014	10.00 am – 12.00 noon	Strathallen Hotel, Hagley Road, Birmingham B16 9RY
Sunday 27th April 2014	2.30 pm – 4.30 pm	3 Counties Hotel, Belmont Road, Hereford HR2 7BP

**Refreshments** will be provided and there is **FREE parking** available. Please contact Kim Beak on 07872 150 327 or [Kim.beak@diaverum.com](mailto:Kim.beak@diaverum.com) for further information.

**Future staff and patient drop-in sessions** will be advertised in this newsletter and online

 [www.uhb.nhs.uk/renal](http://www.uhb.nhs.uk/renal).



## >> CONTACT US



If you have any questions or queries regarding dialysis services, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

### University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

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Dr Simon Ball (Clinical Service Lead)

Liz Simpson (Matron)



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