

December 2018



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Hello,

With the festive season upon us, we'd like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy new year.

The last 12 months have been an extremely busy time for the NHS in Swindon but, as we approach what is traditionally the busiest time of year, there's reason to feel optimistic about the future of healthcare in our town.

Colleagues at the Great Western Hospital were treated to an early Christmas present at the beginning of December when they were told how a recent bid to the Department of Health and Social Care to transform their Emergency Department had been successful.

This good news means that our local hospital, which provides care and treatment to hundreds of thousands of people every single year, will soon receive £30 million in funding to not only make its Emergency Department bigger, but also to buy around five hectares of nearby land, with a view of using it to help expand existing services.

It's a truly exciting time for Swindon, especially as the hospital is now in a great position to look at providing future care in a new and innovative way.

At the CCG, we've been fortunate to hear GWH's long-term plans for the introduction of an intensive rehabilitation transitional care facility in Swindon, something which has become popular in Northern Europe and shown to help free up beds in busy hospitals similar to the Great Western.

Although these plans are still in their infancy stages, we remain fully supportive of the ambitious view the team at GWH have for making Swindon a leading force in delivering new models of healthcare.

So, as we leave 2018 behind and move towards 2019, which we know will be just as busy and just as challenging as previous years, we are motivated and encouraged by this exciting news, which could bring huge benefits to all areas of healthcare in Swindon.

Before we sign off, we know a lot of NHS staff take the time to read this newsletter, and we would like to extend a heartfelt season's greetings to all our colleagues who will be working this Christmas and New Year.

You are what makes the NHS great.

Happy Christmas, everyone.

Until next time, stay healthy and happy!

Pharmacies open on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

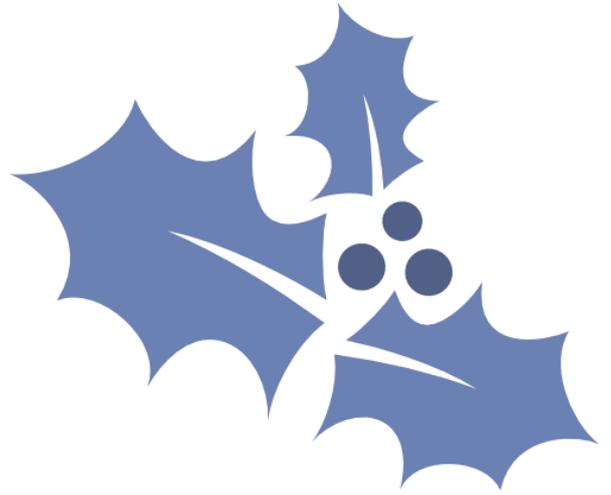
It's not just Santa Claus who will be hard at work this festive season, plenty of pharmacists across Swindon will be on hand to offer help and support on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

People needing medical advice, help with a prescription or details of where to go for further care or treatment, will be able to call in on a number of pharmacies in Swindon on the days when many others in the town will be closed.

Sparcells Pharmacy, Swindon Pharmacy, Hawthorne Pharmacy and Facechoice Pharmacy will all be open on Christmas Day, while others, including many of the pharmacies inside larger supermarkets and shopping centres, will be open on Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Patients are advised that the pharmacies opening on the bank holidays will do so with reduced opening hours.

[Click here](#) to download a list of the pharmacies open on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.



Be there for someone in crisis

If you know someone who has what it takes to be there for someone in crisis, let them know about the positions available at the Junction.

Joining the team at Swindon's newest mental health support service will not only give someone the chance to make a difference to people in crisis, but also the opportunity to use their skills, knowledge, expertise to help build a new and exciting collaborative community project.

Anybody with experience of supporting people with mental health needs, either with or without a recognised professional qualification, is urged to find out more about starting a career in an environment where two days are never the same by contacting Sheila Baxter, Mental Health Commissioner, on 07554 111881 or at sheila.baxter@swindonccg.nhs.uk.



Share views on the temporary closure of Swindon's Place of Safety Suite

Swindon CCG is asking local people to share their thoughts and feelings on the temporary closure of the Place of Safety Suites in Swindon and Salisbury.

An online survey has been activated to capture the feedback and will be live until Monday 31 December 2018.

The two Place of Safety Suites - which were used to detain people requiring assessment following a mental health crisis - were closed for 12 months in March 2018 after the Care Quality Commission, which regulates healthcare services in England, raised a number of concerns regarding quality.

During the current period of closure, people in either Swindon or Salisbury needing a mental health assessment have been taken to another Place of Safety Suite in Devizes.

The online survey, which should take no more than 10 minutes to complete, can be accessed by [clicking here](#) or typing the following web address into any internet browser:
www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/70240.



Find out more about proposals to change maternity services

People in Swindon can find out more about the proposal to enhance maternity services in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire at a special information event next month.

Taking place at Sanford House on Thursday 10 January between 10am and 12pm, the event will be an opportunity to get up to speed with the proposed changes and ask questions to staff from Swindon CCG, Wiltshire CCG and the Great Western Hospital.

More information on the proposal, as well as details of how to take part in the current consultation, can be found by visiting www.transformingmaternity.org.uk.



Transforming Maternity
Services Together

Have Your Say



More primary care appointments this winter

It will be much easier for people living in Swindon to book an appointment to see a GP, nurse or other health professional during the evenings and weekends this winter.

Surgeries and practices across the town have started offering appointments at times ranging from 6pm to 9pm during weekdays and 8am to 12pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

This new initiative is part of a range of measures being introduced across the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) to ensure people stay well and out of hospital, while reducing the demand for other health and care services.

Patients can find out more about accessing an evening or weekend appointment by speaking to the team at their GP practice.



For your information and interest

- NHS England has announced a major overhaul of cancer screening programmes across the country, as part of a renewed drive to improve care and save lives.

Early detection of cancer – when the disease is easier to treat – is at the heart of the NHS' long-term plan to upgrade services and ensure patients benefit from the most cutting-edge treatments.

The review, which will be led by Professor Sir Mike Richards, will assess the strengths and weaknesses of the current cancer screening programmes and make recommendations on a number of areas, including research, training and technology.

- Thousands of people with Type 1 diabetes – including many in Swindon – will benefit from new glucose monitors that have been made available on the NHS.

Simon Stevens, Chief Executive of NHS England, used World Diabetes Day to announce that all patients who qualify for Freestyle Libre monitors will be able to get the state-of-the-art device on prescription.

The size of a £2 coin, the Freestyle Libre monitor is worn on a patient's arm and sends accurate glucose levels to a smart-phone or e-reader without the need for a finger prick test.

- A new survey from Public Health England has revealed overwhelming public support for reducing the levels sugar and overall calories in everyday foods.

Carried out by research giant Ipsos MORI, the survey found around 90 per cent of people supported the government in working with leading food industry manufacturers, supermarkets and restaurants to make foods and drinks healthier.

Helping the NHS was named as one of the main reasons for people supporting this work.

[Click here](#) to find out more.

Governing Body

The December meeting of Swindon CCG's Governing Body, which was due to take place on Thursday 20 December, has been cancelled.

Minutes and papers of previous meetings can be found by clicking here or visiting the [Get Involved pages](#) of the CCG website.

If you would like to attend, please send an email to communications@swindonccg.nhs.uk.

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