

Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington DL3 6HX
joannejohnston@nhs.net

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Dear colleague

Urgent care overnight in Darlington

You will be aware that discussions have been taking place around the integration of the urgent care centre, currently at Dr Piper House, with the Emergency Department at Darlington Memorial Hospital (DMH).

This integration has been part of the PCT's long term plan for unscheduled care. It is also supported by the shadow Darlington CCG, which has recently been discussing the detailed modelling of the future service.

Following discussion with the overview and scrutiny committee, it has been agreed, as from the 1 August 2012, that the urgent care centre at Dr Piper House will close from midnight until 8am. Overnight, the service will transfer to the Emergency Department at DMH.

This is seen as a first step towards the full integration of the Emergency Department and urgent care service.

Walk in activity during this time period is already extremely low. Patients will be advised via posters, signage at Dr Piper House and local media in order to ensure any potential walk ins are redirected to the most appropriate service.

Patients who require a face to face appointment will be directed to the Emergency Department at DMH during these times for their booked appointment

The Trust will be sending posters outlining the new arrangement to all GP practices. I would be grateful if these could be displayed prominently in your practice.

I am grateful for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Joanne Johnston
Head of Unscheduled Care

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