

Core brief

Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive (20 September 2024, 4.15pm)

Next week marks the start of our annual flu vaccination campaign for all staff. Every year, flu significantly impacts our services, so it's vital that we do all we can to reduce the risk to staff and, ultimately, to our patients. All clinical and non-clinical staff are eligible for the vaccine, and you can find details of the drop-in clinics on our dedicated webpage [here](#). The more staff who get vaccinated, the stronger our collective protection against the virus, which helps reduce the severity of illness for individuals and safeguard our services. If you're unable to attend next week, don't worry – local teams will continue running the programme throughout the winter, with additional dates to follow.



As part of our induction programme for non-executive board members, this week we welcomed new members to the South sector. During their visit, they had the opportunity to tour our Ophthalmology Unit – one of the largest in the UK – as well as our Older People's Rehabilitation facilities, Day Surgery, and Cardiac Rehabilitation services at the New Victoria ACH. A big thank you to all the staff involved in making these inductions a success.



Board members visit the rehab suite

As part of the pay settlement for Agenda for Change staff in 2023-24, it was agreed to support a Job Evaluation Review of Band 5 Nursing Roles. We encourage all Band 5 nurses who believe they are working at a higher level to apply for their current role to be re-evaluated. An online application form and supporting guidance documentation is available via the STAC website [here](#). Support is also available from your Trade Union. Please speak to your manager before submitting your application.

I'd like to take some time to spotlight our new public campaign to help promote our realistic medicine approach to health and care. [Realistic Medicine](#) focuses on providing tailored care for our patients and is underpinned by shared decision making between the patient and their clinician. It helps our patients feel more involved in their care journey, helping them understand their options better, and ultimately, helps them make the more informed decisions linked to their personal circumstances. It is an important approach and one which we are keen to see through all our healthcare provision. I'd encourage all staff to familiarise themselves with the approach and undertake it with patients wherever possible. You can find more information on our Staffnet page [here](#), including access to a suite of resources and information provided from a national level.

Finally, I'd like to share some fantastic feedback from the Plastic Surgery and General Surgery team and in particular Professor Lo and Mr Chong at the GRI. Thank you for your care of this patient over the years:

"I just want to say how amazing my care has been at GRI. I was diagnosed with a Desmoid Fibromatosis Tumour in 2015. This was removed by Mr Chong also in 2015. The follow-ups and aftercare was exceptional (5 years of check-ups as these tumours have a high chance of recurrence). Mr Chong is such a lovely person and very down to earth and easy to talk to.

"After my op I was also referred to Professor Lo at the Plastic Surgery Department, where I have been attending for the last 9 years. Again the service I received from Professor Lo was second to none. Absolute gem of a guy, and nothing was ever a bother. Again very down to earth and makes you feel so comfortable.

"My treatment has been incredible and the outcome has been fantastic. I was finally discharged recently after a long 9 years. I just want to give a shout out to both these doctors as they both do an incredible job. Thank you so much!!!"

It is important to share Core Brief with colleagues who do not have access to a computer.

A full archive of printable PDFs are available on [website](#)