

January 2021

Dear Camden GPs and Partners,

Camden MSK COVID-19 Update:

Camden MSK aims to continue to provide excellent care for all patients during the current pandemic. We recognise the skills, professionalism and resilience that all our staff demonstrated during the first wave and want to ensure our staff continue to be supported during this next wave. We are aligned with our partners and we will continue to work as a good system partner, in facing and responding to the unique challenges that this winter brings, supporting each other for the benefit of the patients we serve.

We have a responsibility to retain and run services that are critical for the safe care of Camden patients and will only reduce or pause services during significant surges in COVID-19, as staff are redeployed.

Clinical Assessment and Triage Service:

- All routine consultations have been converted to virtual appointments, either telephone or video.
- Patients triaged as **Urgent** are still invited to attend clinic for a face-to-face appointment.
- There may be delays in accessing injection service
- Clinicians urge you to utilise the STarT Back screening tool for patients with spinal pain. STarT Back is a simple tool to match patients to treatment packages appropriate based on prognosis and has been shown to significantly decrease disability from back pain.
www.startback.hfac.keele.ac.uk/training/resources/

Camden Pain Service:

- 90% of staff have been redeployed.
- Expect delays in time from referral to treatment

MSK Podiatry:

- Face to face clinics remain unchanged at present but may move to virtual appointments over the next few weeks.
- There is a chance that staff will be redeployed to become vaccinators.

Connect Health Physiotherapy:

- Physiotherapy service is currently fully staffed with no clinicians redeployed.
- Face to face appointments are available to those patients that need them. Clinicians are contacting any face to face DNAs to offer virtual appointments in case the non-attendance is due to the current national lockdown or for reasons of shielding.
- Continue to offer virtual appointments and virtual gym sessions to those that require them.

InHealth Community Diagnostics:

- Currently operating as normal, but there are high numbers of staff absences, which has resulted in short notice cancellations.
- Services are under a lot of pressure and this may have an impact on the waiting times.

We ask that you support your patients to self manage (where possible) and access useful information on the following websites:

www.camdenmsk.co.uk
www.connecthealth.co.uk/services/camden/

Should you have any questions or concerns about the changes that we have made, please feel free to contact me by email (jonathan.hearsey@nhs.net).

With kind regards,



Jonathan Hearsey
Clinical Director
Camden MSK