

Neurology service review

What is neurology?

Neurology is the branch of medicine that involves the diagnosis and treatment of conditions relating to the central nervous system (the brain and spinal cord) and peripheral nervous system (nerves and muscles which activate movement and transmit sensation from all parts of the body to the brain). Neurologists treat conditions such as stroke, headaches and migraines, multiple sclerosis, blackouts, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease (as well as other forms of dementia), spinal cord diseases, brain tumours and epilepsy. If a patient requires surgery, the neurologist will refer them to a neurosurgeon.



What is a service review?

A service review involves examining a service area thoroughly to understand which parts of the service are working well and which are not working as well, to find ways to improve the service further for the good of the patient. This may involve looking at department policies and processes, data analysis, speaking often and regularly to the people who use the service and the doctors and nurses who provide them. Once all this information has been gathered, it is used by managers of the service to help them make a plan for improvement.

Neurology services in the Humber region

Neurology services are provided at three of the four main hospitals in the Humber area - Hull Royal Infirmary, Scunthorpe General Hospital and Grimsby's Diana Princess of Wales Hospital.

All neurosurgery is conducted at Hull Royal Infirmary as the hospital has a neuro high dependency unit ward, a general neuro inpatient ward and outpatient clinics. There is a Neurology Rehabilitation Centre at Goole and District Hospital, which cares for patients who have already received acute hospital care but now require long-term rehabilitative care.



Why do we need to review hospital services in the Humber region?

Advances in medical knowledge and technology have allowed our doctors to develop fantastic services for our hospitals, which, in part, is helping people live longer and survive illnesses that their parents or grandparents might not have. These developments have also enabled more healthcare services to be provided away from hospitals — at GP practices and in the community, for example — while hospitals continue to focus on looking after the most seriously ill patients.

As the ways of delivering care to patients change, an extensive hospital services review is needed to ensure we provide services that are safe and patient-centred, both now and in the future. NHS services need to constantly adapt to provide the best possible care for patients with the resources available. Current challenges, such as rising demand, workforce challenges, finance and quality of care mean that change is necessary to ensure the future of our health services.



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What happens to neurology patients in the Humber region?

Neurology services can be part of unplanned (emergency) and planned (elective) care at hospitals. Patients may enter neurology services in one of the following ways:

Planned

Neurologists work closely with colleagues from across a hospital to deliver joined-up care for patients, for example, who have degenerative conditions which will get worse over time and therefore they need long-term care and regular monitoring in outpatient clinics. As well as carry out tests, neurologists will recommend therapies and treatments to help these patients manage their condition and its symptoms as successfully as possible.

Neurology patients might be referred to outpatient clinics at Hull Royal Infirmary, Scunthorpe General Hospital or Princess Diana of Wales Hospital in Grimsby. For example, nurse-led clinics for multiple sclerosis (MS) patients are held at Scunthorpe General Hospital and at Diana Princess of Wales Hospital in Grimsby, which also provides a nurse-led clinic for patients with epilepsy.

Planned neurology care (and unplanned care) is supported by many hospital departments, including radiology, neurophysiology, nuclear medicine, neurological rehabilitation and neuropsychology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, and orthotic services.

Unplanned

When a patient arrives at A&E at Hull Royal Infirmary, Scunthorpe General Hospital or Diana Princess of Wales Hospital in Grimsby, those needing neurosurgery (for head or spine injuries, for example) are referred to the neurosurgical unit at Hull Royal Infirmary.

Patients with acute neurological illnesses (eg: an epileptic seizure) are assessed by the A&E team and, if their condition stabilises after treatment enough for them to be discharged, they will be invited back to hospital for a check-up at a later date.

Those patients who need to stay in hospital are admitted to Hull Royal Infirmary, Diana Princess of Wales Hospital in Grimsby or Scunthorpe General Hospital, under the care of the acute medicine team and other speciality teams where required. They could be examined by a neurology consultant or a specialist nurse. Urgent treatment is provided by the Hull Royal Infirmary on-call team.

Have
your
say

Throughout the review process we are keen to hear from members of the public to ensure their feedback and experiences are reflected in any recommendations made. You can do this in a number of ways:

- Email us: humber.acutereview@nhs.net
- Phone us: 01482 344711
- Write to us: Humber Acute Services Review, c/o NHS Hull CCG, 2nd floor, Wilberforce Court, Alfred Gelder Street, Hull, HU1 1UY

Find out more about the review at humbercoastandvale.org.uk/humberacutereview

