

New NHS home service to save hospital stays

A new NHS service has been launched in Stockport that will ensure people registered with a Stockport GP, needing intravenous antibiotics, can be treated at home rather than going into hospital.

The Community IV Therapy service will be provided by a team of specialist doctors and nurses, working with specialists at Stepping Hill Hospital, either in the comfort of the patient's home or at local health centres.

Intravenous antibiotics are given when the treatment for things like cellulitis, infected leg ulcers or chest infections, needs to be fast-acting and stronger than a course of tablets.

Up until now patients have had to be admitted to hospital to receive this treatment and, even though they may need no other medical help, stay there until the course of medication is finished.

But, as successful services in England and previously in Stockport have shown, the IV therapy can be safely administered to patients at home or a local community clinic.

Now NHS Stockport CCG, keen to allow people the convenience of home care where it's safe to do so, has commissioned a 12 month long pilot service in Stockport.

Dr Ranjit Gill, the CCG's lead doctor, said "We're delighted to be able to offer our patients this service which will prevent them unnecessarily having to be admitted to hospital.

"They'll receive the same high quality, safe care that they would have had in hospital but it will be given to them in the convenience of their own home.

"This in turn will free up hospital beds for those people who really need to be admitted."

People can be referred into the service by their own GP or a hospital doctor if they've turned up ill at A&E.

The IV treatment will be given once a day for a few days, as required, while people sit in a comfortable chair or lie on their bed.

The service will be provided by Mastercall Healthcare, Stockport's Out of Hours GP service, and Healthcare At Home, the UK's largest provider of out of hospital treatment.

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