



## HEARTLINK - EALING HEART SUPPORT GROUP NEWSLETTER APRIL 2021

Phone us on 07518 569 380

Visit our web Site at [www.ealingheartgroup.co.uk](http://www.ealingheartgroup.co.uk)

Email us at [info@ealingheartgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@ealingheartgroup.co.uk)

or follow us on Twitter at [Ealingheartgrp](https://twitter.com/Ealingheartgrp)

### BIRTHDAY WISHES



**IRIS BOX**

#### ON HER VERY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

Iris celebrated a very special birthday recently – Iris has helped Heartlink over many many years.

We hope you had a wonderful day in your family bubble 😊



#### EASTER TREATS FOR OUR HEROES - As a

little treat from us

to them we gave out Easter Eggs to our wonderful NHS staff at Ealing Hospital Cardiology Cath Lab, Chest & ECG Clinic, 4 South Cheseaman Ward, Lolipop Team, Heart Failure Clinic and Cardiology at Hanwell Health Centre – we hope they enjoyed them.



#### A Poem from our Poet Dennis

Our wonderful NHS,  
Simply the best,  
If needed,  
I'm available for any test;  
There's great healing in Ealing  
Hospital,  
Where the people with love look  
after my heart,  
God bless all involved,  
And may they never be apart.

#### HELPFUL LINKS:

Ealing Hospital 020 8967 5000

Northwick Park 020 8864 3232

Central Mddx 020 8965 5733

COVID TEST Call 119 or go to

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

**Dear Member**, once again we hope this Newsletter finds you and your family well. Here's hoping you have all had your vaccines and we can meet up soon – we so miss seeing you all.

### NEWS ON EALING HOSPITAL CARDIOLOGY SERVICES

Several patients have contacted Heartlink to say they were told the Cath Lab at Ealing Hospital had closed and that patients needing angiograms were being directed to Northwick Park Hospital for their procedures. We made enquiries and have established that in fact the Cath Lab at Ealing Hospital is still currently being used for a number of specified procedures only. **However, patients requiring angiograms are being directed to Northwick Park Hospital for the foreseeable future.**

We raised our concerns and questions to a senior member of the Trust at Ealing Hospital and with Virendra Sharma MP. We are grateful to Virendra who followed through the concerns we raised with the Trust, and to the senior manager at Ealing who took the time to reply very quickly – many thanks to both it is very much appreciated. Both responses are attached and should be read as they go into very informative details, but to summarise;

*The Cath Lab at Ealing Hospital has not closed permanently but will close for refurbishment. It is currently being used for a number of specified procedures however, once refurbishment starts it will take up to six months to complete. During this time, all patients requiring cardiology intervention from Ealing will have access to the two cath labs at Northwick Park Hospital (NPH), one of which recently re-opened after undergoing a refurbishment.*

In the meantime, as heart patients we need to make sure we keep our appointments and follow through with any follow-ups.

The Trust also confirmed that it had secured a further £1.2m of funding to modernise Ealing's catheterisation laboratory (cath lab) for its refurbishment. This major investment will provide the latest diagnostic imaging equipment to be made available to Ealing heart patients.

### BRILLIANT NEWS !!!

**Cardiology outpatient appointments continue as normal.** If there are any changes to appointments the Hospital will either text, call or send you a letter. The hospital continues to offer telephone appointments and may also offer video appointments. Patients should attend their appointment as usual, remembering to follow the hospital rules if you are asked to attend the clinic in person.

We will bring you more updates on Cardiology Services at Ealing Hospital as soon as we have any

## **The Heart Failure Service – Pilot Project**

Dr Harman Singh has kindly invited Heartlink members to participate in a very exciting Pilot Project which is about to start. The Pilot will run a 'Virtual Monitoring Service' predominantly for Heart Failure patients using a 'Smart Armband' that links to your own mobile phone. The technology records several vital cardiac parameters. We think it's a bit like a heart monitor and oximeter all in one, with nurses in the hospital keeping a track of your readings remotely via the App on your mobile phone. There are only a limited number of places, and participants will be selected on a medical need basis. **If you are interested in being a part of this study, please let me know asap so that I can pass on your details to Dr Harman and his team.** Members who have already given their details need not reapply. I will keep you all updated on progress with the Pilot.



**OXIMETERS** – Over the last few weeks Oximeters have been delivered to those who requested them. We managed to get some pictures (see overleaf) of members receiving them – apologies if your picture is not there, the quality of some was not good. We hope you find them a useful tool in monitoring your oxygen levels.

**Again, a huge Thank You to Tony Hussain from Home Instead who kindly donated them.**

## **Free Rapid Lateral Flow Tests for everyone in England from Friday 9 April**

You do not have to have any symptoms of Covid19 to have these tests and can either pick them up from your local testing centre, pharmacy or have them delivered direct to your home. Free packs will contain 7 tests and you can order one pack per household regularly. We are being advised to use these test about every 3 to 4 days. Listed below are the ways in which you can order them.

- **Online:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/twice-weekly-rapid-testing-to-be-available-to-everyone-in-england>

- **By Phone:** Call 119 Lines are open 7am to 11pm and calls are free.
- **Contact or Visit Your Local Pharmacy**
- **Contact or Visit Your Local Covid19 Test Centre**

### **Do not use a rapid lateral flow test if you already have coronavirus symptoms.**

**If you have COVID19 Symptoms or think you have then you must get a PCR test done.**

You can do this by either going to your local COVID Test Centre, order a PCR Test Online or Call 119. And of course you must self-isolate until you have a negative result.

More information on Lateral Flow Test can be found using the links below

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/twice-weekly-rapid-testing-to-be-available-to-everyone-in-england>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>



## **Easing of Lockdown – The Next Steps – Monday 12 April**

Many of us will welcome the easing of restrictions and the opening of retail shops, hairdressers, barbers, pub gardens, hospitality, gyms and much more. Some of us may still be a little apprehensive. Whatever we do or wherever we visit we must still always remember the **HANDS** (wash regularly) **FACE** (wear masks) **SPACE** (social distancing 2 metres) and get whenever you can get **FRESH AIR** (ventilate rooms indoors)

**As always if you need us contact us we are here for you**

**Stay Safe, Stay Well & Stay in Touch** 

## **HEARTLINK - EALING HEART SUPPORT GROUP**

### **NEWSLETTER APRIL 2021**

#### **EMAIL FROM VIRENDRA SHARMA MP RE EALING HOSPITAL CATH LAB**

**From:** "SHARMA, Virendra" <[virendra.sharma.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:virendra.sharma.mp@parliament.uk)>

**Date:** 7 April 2021 at 15:59:43 BST - **Subject: RE: Ealing Hospital**

Thank you for writing to me about this important issue.

I have been in touch with the NHS Trust about this issue.

The 'Cath lab' has not closed permanently but is closed for renovation.

*"The cath lab refurbishment will take up to six months to complete. During this time all patients requiring cardiology intervention from Ealing will have access to the two cath labs at Northwick Park Hospital (NPH), one of which recently re-opened after undergoing a £1.2m refurbishment.*

*We estimate that no more than four Ealing patients a day (includes two non-elective cases per day) will need to transfer from Ealing to NPH. While this decision will inconvenience those patients who would normally be treated at Ealing, we believe it will be better for them to be treated within the Trust than to be referred to a tertiary centre. To allow us to prepare for the cath lab refurbishment, coronary angiography procedures had been planned to stop at Ealing on 9 April 2021. Unfortunately, due to technical reasons, we needed to stop all coronary activity on 25 March. Those patients booked up to 9 April have been contacted and advised that they will get dates for procedures at NPH in the coming weeks. Patients waiting for procedures will be transferred from Ealing to NPH. The cath labs at NPH will start running extended days to accommodate the Ealing patients."*

Thank you for your interest in our NHS which is very important to me. I have campaigned to keep Ealing Hospital fully stocked with services. There is plenty of work left to be done, and I will continue to push the trust to properly serve the people of Ealing by retaining proper hospital services at Ealing Hospital.

Best wishes

Virendra

[Virendra Sharma, Member of Parliament for Ealing, Southall, Constituency: 0208 571 1003, Parliamentary: 0207 219 6080](#)

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### **The Trust Response to Questions Raised by Heartlink – APRIL 2021**

**Q Has the Cath Lab at Ealing closed and if so for how long?**

The cath lab is currently being used for a number of specified procedures and refurbishment will take up to six months to complete once work starts.

**Q As a member of the CCG Patient Participation Group we were told some time ago that substantial investments had been agreed for Ealing Hospital, and in particular in Cardiology with a new / refurbished Cath Lab – Is this still going to happen and if so are there any timescales ?**

The Trust has secured £1.2m of funding to modernise Ealing's catheterisation laboratory (cath lab). This represents a major investment allowing us to offer the latest diagnostic imaging equipment to Ealing patients with heart conditions. In addition to the new cath lab we will modernise, with clinical colleagues, the cardiology service at Ealing Hospital. This will ensure that we maximise both the use of the new cath lab and ensure improved access for local people.

**Q Also 'Walk In' hospital appointments are still only made where necessary and the majority of appointments will continue to be via telephone appointments unless the patient is told differently. Is this Correct?**

We've made some temporary changes to outpatient appointments. We will let patients know if there are any changes to their appointment by text, call, or letter. We may offer a video appointment or telephone appointment. We may also cancel or rearrange an appointment if it is safe to do so. Otherwise patients should attend their appointment as usual, remembering to follow our new rules for coming to hospital

**Q Visits to hospital wards continue to be only by prearrangement with the Matron / Ward Staff / Managers. Is this Correct?**

Our wards are currently closed to visitors except in exceptional circumstances. Visits are arranged in advance with the ward sister or the doctor looking after the friend or relative. Visitors will not be allowed on the ward

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