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PRESS RELEASE

New Clinical Decision Unit Opens

The newly developed Clinical Decision Unit (CDU) at Blackpool Victoria Hospital opened its doors recently. The unit opened as planned thanks to the determined efforts of staff and contractors to complete this ambitious project in a very tight timescale and have the unit open and ready before the winter bed pressures.

Formerly known as the Medical Assessment Unit (MAU), the new CDU is located on the first floor of Phase V in the main hospital building accessed via the main hospital entrance. The CDU is open 24 hours per day, every single day of the year and provides assessment and treatment for acutely unwell patients.

The new CDU brings many benefits to patients, visitors and staff. It offers improved facilities including a waiting room; a quiet room for staff to talk to concerned relatives and a number of single rooms which help to support a patient's privacy and dignity. The new unit has 33% more floor space than the old MAU and provides a more flexible and efficient layout for staff to work in.

Patients are referred to CDU by a doctor, either their GP or a doctor in the hospital's A&E department, who has made an assessment of their condition and who thinks that the CDU is the best place to investigate the problem further. Patients are referred to the CDU with a wide range of medical conditions ranging from difficulty breathing, chest or abdominal pains to kidney failure.

Once a patient arrives in the CDU, medical investigations will take place and the decision is taken whether to admit the patient to hospital for treatment, refer to an alternative healthcare provider or discharge the patient for treatment at home.

Half of all patients admitted to the hospital in this way are discharged direct from the CDU after treatment. The remainder are referred to another specialty area of the hospital depending on their healthcare needs.

The old MAU bed complement was 21 and each bed was turned over at least twice a day. The new CDU bed complement has increased to 30 which will reduce the pressure to transfer patients into acute beds to free up CDU capacity for incoming demand. It also allows the unit to keep patients who are suitable for early discharge and enables quicker movement of referrals from

A&E. The CDU is an extremely busy unit with over 40 admissions daily and over 70 patients admitted on Christmas Eve 2007.

Dr Yunus Seth, Lead Clinician in Acute Medicine said: “We are delighted with the new unit and how its improved facilities and working environment allow us to deliver a quality service and positive patient experience. The greatest reward for a healthcare worker is to deal with satisfied patients and the new unit, combined with the skill and dedication of our staff, helps us to achieve this goal on a daily basis.”

For further information about this Press Release, please call Estelle Harris, Communications Officer, on 01253 655614.



Pic: Dr Yunus Seth, Lead Clinician in Acute Medicine with the Clinical Decision Unit team.