

PAT/14/850

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## **New intermediate care beds at North Manchester General Hospital to benefit patients seeking to regain independent lives**

INTERMEDIATE care is being enhanced for patients in the north Manchester area.

The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and North Manchester Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are working in partnership to provide nine additional intermediate care beds for patients at North Manchester General Hospital.

The enhanced community beds are based on ward J5 at the hospital and offer patients support in the transition period between illness and recovery.



Carol Kavanagh, Intermediate Care Manager, said: “The additional temporary beds which provide enhanced intermediate care are part of a business plan which will transform the way in which intermediate care for patients is delivered. This involves a redesign of existing health and social care services and will ultimately result in a new capital build for intermediate care beds on the North Manchester General Hospital site.”

The majority of patients in the North Manchester area, accessing intermediate care services are over 75 years of age and the enhanced service is aimed at people who do not require, or no longer need specialist acute hospital care and treatment, but who need support within a community setting.

Carol continued: “The system is all about reducing the patients’ dependence on health and social care, and improving their quality of life by promoting self care. This will promote faster recovery from illness and so avoid any inappropriate admissions to hospital or to a care/residential home on a long term basis. Patients will be able to maximise their ability to live independently as part of a wider model of service for older people in The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust.”

The nine intermediate care beds opened in November 2014 and take patients following hospital discharge who are registered with a North Manchester GP. The intermediate care team screen all referrals and assessments.

The beds will be in addition to the 15 beds currently at Henesy House which will stay in place until the new capital build has been completed in 2016. Henesy House is a 15 bedded residential home in Collyhurst, Manchester. The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust is commissioned to provide an intermediate care service and sub-contract to CiC to provide the home and the care support staff with the intermediate care facility. Pennine Acute provides all the occupational therapists,

physiotherapists and nurses, pharmacy, podiatry, speech and language therapy and administration staff. Intermediate Care is a rehabilitation approach to prevent people going into hospital, and to facilitate their return home from a hospital setting.

Helen Speed, Programme Director for Urgent Care at North Manchester Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "The intermediate care beds have started on a ward, but ultimately they will be in a separate custom-designed, adaptable building that will give us the space and the surroundings to help people with complex health needs. This shift in approach means that we can help people to get back on their feet at a time when they aren't ill enough to be in hospital, but need help to recover.

"Ultimately the project is all about providing better care at what can be a critical stage in the long-term recovery for a patient."