



Imperial College Healthcare  
NHS Trust

# Proposed change for specialist infectious diseases inpatients service

## Contents

Proposal summary .....	3
Introduction .....	4
About the Trust .....	4
How infectious diseases services are currently provided .....	6
About infectious diseases .....	6
Current infectious diseases services .....	6
Infectious diseases inpatients services .....	7
Infectious diseases outpatients services .....	7
Proposed change for specialist infectious diseases inpatients service .....	8
The case for change .....	9
Patient impact .....	10
Financial implications .....	10
Benefits of the proposed change .....	11
Your feedback .....	12
Potential timescales .....	12
Your comments and questions .....	12
Map of Imperial College Healthcare sites .....	12

## Proposal summary

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust ('Imperial College Healthcare') is asking patients, service users, local residents and other stakeholders about the proposal to move their specialist inpatients service for patients with infectious diseases. We want to provide the best possible specialist care for patients who are admitted to hospital with a severe condition related to infectious diseases.

Currently, patients with infectious diseases whose care requires a stay in a hospital may be admitted at Charing Cross, Hammersmith and St Mary's hospitals – all part of Imperial College Healthcare.

For patients admitted to hospital with severe infections and fever requiring isolation or high-level medical treatment and monitoring, the specialist infectious diseases inpatients service is currently provided in an eight-bed ward at Hammersmith Hospital.

Under this proposal we would relocate the specialist infectious diseases inpatients service from Hammersmith Hospital to St Mary's Hospital and maintain the current service at Charing Cross Hospital for admitted acute infectious diseases patients.

Moving the specialist infectious diseases inpatients service to St Mary's Hospital would enable the specialist clinical team to improve the overall quality of care, experience and outcomes for the most acutely unwell patients. The case for change is therefore based on maintaining and improving our infectious diseases inpatients service and reducing ward moves and unwarranted cross-site transfer of infectious diseases patients.

While we recognise the high quality of clinical care provided at Hammersmith Hospital, this relatively small but important service would be better located at St Mary's Hospital which provides a range of other acute inpatients services alongside urgent and emergency care through the Accident & Emergency (A&E) department, which is the main route of admission to hospital for patients with infectious diseases.

The infectious diseases service would continue to provide in-reach services for patients being cared for by other departments at Charing Cross and Hammersmith hospitals, as well as maintaining outpatient services in their current format across all our three main sites.

The eight specialist beds currently used for infectious diseases inpatients with severe conditions at Hammersmith Hospital would be repurposed to other areas of patient care.

We would welcome your feedback throughout the engagement period from Monday 2 August until Friday 27 August 2021, especially from patients, carers and service user groups and other stakeholders. Please submit any comments and questions via email to: [imperial.communications@nhs.net](mailto:imperial.communications@nhs.net)

Subject to the feedback we receive on the proposal, it is expected that the timeframe would be for a decision to be made in September 2021.

## Introduction

This document explains the change that we are proposing to Imperial College Healthcare's specialist infectious diseases inpatients service. We welcome any comments on the proposals outlined in this document and will endeavour to answer any questions.

### About the Trust

#### Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

At Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust we provide acute and specialist healthcare for over one million people a year. Formed in 2007, we are one of the largest NHS trusts in the country, with more than 14,500 staff.

Our five hospitals in central and west London – Charing Cross, Hammersmith, Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea, St Mary's and the Western Eye – have a long track record in research and education, influencing care and treatment nationally and worldwide. We are developing a growing range of integrated and digital care services and offer private healthcare in dedicated facilities on all our sites.

With our partners, Imperial College London, The Institute of Cancer Research, The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust and Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, we form Imperial College Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC). We are one of eight academic health science centres in England, working to improve health and care through the rapid translation of discoveries from early scientific research into benefits for patients.

Imperial College Healthcare provides care from five hospitals on four sites:

**Charing Cross Hospital** – providing a range of acute and specialist services including cancer care and a 24/7 accident and emergency department (A&E). It also hosts the hyper-acute stroke unit for the region and is a growing hub for integrated care in partnership with local GPs and community providers.

**Hammersmith Hospital** – a specialist hospital renowned for its strong research connections. It offers a range of services, including renal, haematology, cancer and cardiology care, and provides the regional specialist heart attack centre. As well as being a major base for Imperial College London, the site also hosts the clinical sciences centre of the Medical Research Council.

**Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea Hospital** – a maternity, women's and neonatal care hospital, also with strong research links. It has a midwife-led birth centre as well as specialist services for complicated pregnancies, fetal and neonatal care.

**St Mary's Hospital** – the major acute hospital for north west London as well as a maternity centre with consultant and midwife-led services. The hospital provides care across a wide range of specialties and runs one of four major trauma centres in London in addition to its 24/7 A&E department.

**Western Eye Hospital** – a specialist eye hospital with a specialist A&E department.

Increasingly, we provide our services in community facilities and in partnership with GPs and community, mental health and social care organisations. We run eight renal satellite units.

**Our mission and strategic goals**

Our mission is to be a key partner in our local health system and to drive health and healthcare innovation, delivering outstanding care, education and research with local, national and worldwide impact.

We have three overarching strategic goals that, together, will enable us to achieve our vision of ‘better health, for life’:

- to help create a high-quality integrated care system with the population of north west London
- to develop a sustainable portfolio of outstanding services
- to build learning, improvement and innovation into everything we do.

You can read more about Imperial College Healthcare on our website:

[www.imperial.nhs.uk](http://www.imperial.nhs.uk)

## How infectious diseases services are currently provided

### About infectious diseases

Infectious diseases, sometimes referred to as communicable diseases, are illnesses which are spread from person to person either directly or indirectly. Usually these diseases are caused by micro-organisms such as bacteria, viruses, protozoa and fungi.

Many infectious diseases are more common amongst children and the elderly as their immune systems tend to be weaker. Most common childhood infections include measles, chickenpox and viral gastroenteritis (diarrhoea and vomiting). The elderly population is more susceptible to flu viruses.

Infectious diseases continue to pose significant challenges to public health. The increased mobility of people and goods has contributed to the persistent and ever-changing impact of infectious diseases. Although the effect on mortality of infectious diseases is greater in the developing world, infectious diseases in England generate a significant cost financially, socially, and on health and wellbeing.

### Current infectious diseases services

Currently, Imperial College Healthcare's infectious diseases services are based at Charing Cross, Hammersmith, and St Mary's hospitals. Our specialist clinical team has outstanding expertise in treating and managing infections and fever.

Our infectious disease clinics have particular expertise in the treatment of tuberculosis (TB) and we diagnose and treat around 300 cases of tuberculosis each year. Our tuberculosis service is run jointly by the infectious diseases and respiratory medicine departments.

The range of patients seen in our infectious disease clinics are treated for a variety of infections, including:

- Tuberculosis
- Latent tuberculosis in TB contacts and patients undergoing immunosuppressive therapies
- Atypical mycobacterial infection
- Fever, diarrhoea and other conditions in returning travellers
- Fever of unknown origin
- Bone and joint infection
- Cellulitis
- Pyelonephritis
- Endocarditis
- Persistent chest infections
- Recurrent urinary infections
- Exposure to animal or tick bites
- Other infections

We also offer an outpatient parenteral antibiotic therapy (OPAT) service that offers at-home intravenous antibiotics to qualifying patients.

### **Infectious diseases inpatients services**

Currently, patients with infectious diseases whose care requires a stay in a hospital may be admitted at Charing Cross, Hammersmith and St Mary's hospitals.

For patients admitted to hospital with severe infections and fever requiring isolation or high-level medical treatment and monitoring, the specialist infectious diseases inpatients service is currently provided in an eight-bed ward at Hammersmith Hospital.

### **Infectious diseases outpatients services**

Infectious diseases outpatients services are provided across all of our three main Trust sites: infectious diseases and OPAT (outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy) clinics at Charing Cross Hospital; infectious diseases clinic at Hammersmith Hospital; and, OPAT clinic at St Mary's Hospital.

Under this proposal infectious diseases outpatients services would be maintained in their current form across all three main Trust sites.

## **Proposed change for specialist infectious diseases inpatients service**

Under this proposal we would relocate the specialist inpatients service from Hammersmith Hospital to St Mary's Hospital and maintain the current service at Charing Cross Hospital for admitted acute infectious diseases patients.

While we recognise the high quality of clinical care provided at Hammersmith Hospital, this relatively small but important service would be better located at St Mary's Hospital which provides a range of other acute inpatient services alongside urgent and emergency care through the Accident & Emergency (A&E) department, which is the main route of admission to hospital for patients with infectious diseases.

Under the proposal the infectious diseases patients presenting at St Mary's emergency department requiring hospital admission would remain on the St Mary's site and we would aim to accommodate the majority of patients presenting at the Charing Cross emergency department requiring hospital admission on the Charing Cross site, thus avoiding ward moves and patient transfers between sites as far as possible.

Our tuberculosis (TB) service at St Mary's Hospital is run jointly by the infectious diseases and respiratory medicine departments, providing clinics for the testing, diagnosis and treatment of TB. It is proposed that the infectious diseases inpatients service shares an existing ward with the TB service at St Mary's Hospital. The proposed ward area has all negative pressure side rooms so has the capability to isolate patients appropriately.

Inpatient consultant services would remain at Charing Cross Hospital for all admitted acute infectious diseases patients and daily consultant reviews would continue at Hammersmith Hospital to provide in-reach services for patients being cared for by other departments, while outpatients services would be maintained in their current form across all three main Trust sites.

The total of eight inpatient beds currently used for specialist infectious diseases inpatients at Hammersmith Hospital would be repurposed to care mainly for local elderly medicine and gastroenterology patients, together with some patients who are recovering having already received intensive care on the Hammersmith site. As a result we will continue to use all the current beds for other areas of patient care.

## The case for change

This section summarises the main reasons for the proposed change to our current specialist infectious diseases inpatients service.

The case for change is based on maintaining and improving our infectious diseases inpatients service, providing better patient care and higher quality outcomes.

Given the existing infectious diseases inpatients service at Charing Cross Hospital and the significant demand at St Mary's Hospital, we feel that this relatively small but important specialist service would be better located at St Mary's Hospital which provides a range of other acute inpatient services, including respiratory and tuberculosis (TB) inpatients, alongside urgent and emergency care through the Accident & Emergency (A&E) department.

Moving the specialist infectious diseases inpatients service from its current location to St Mary's Hospital would enable the specialist clinical team to improve the overall quality of care, experience and outcomes for the most acutely unwell patients.

Co-locating the specialist infectious diseases inpatients service together with other related specialist expertise would enable greater collaboration between clinical teams bringing benefits for patients.

St Mary's Hospital provides a high quality respiratory medicine service and we see closer collaboration between the respiratory and infectious diseases teams bringing benefits to patients from earlier decisions on admission, input into care plans, as well as eventual discharge.

The move of the specialist infectious diseases inpatients service to St Mary's Hospital would unify and standardise TB services. Close working between the two specialisms would enhance staff training and development opportunities across both infectious diseases and respiratory teams.

As attendance at our A&E departments at Charing Cross and St Mary's hospitals is the main route of admission to hospital for infectious diseases inpatients, this proposal would also reduce the number of these patients requiring ward moves and transfers between different sites for specialist inpatient infectious diseases care. Our data shows that the vast majority of admissions for the infectious diseases service came from patients admitted via our emergency departments. Activity for 2020/21 shows 28 per cent of patients admitted for specialist infectious diseases care came via the Charing Cross emergency department and 59 per cent via St Mary's emergency department.

Reducing the number of ward moves and unwarranted cross-site transfers would benefit patients admitted at St Mary's Hospital requiring specialist infectious diseases care who would receive this care faster than they currently do.

While the specialist infectious diseases inpatients service is relatively small it is nevertheless important and we see it as part of our range of acute inpatient services which are mainly located at St Mary's Hospital. In terms of the overall characteristics

of our main hospital sites this service fits well with our vision for St Mary's as an advanced, research-led, major trauma centre and acute hospital, with particular strengths in emergency, intensive and trauma care, neurosciences and infectious diseases, for adults and children.

Meanwhile, our vision for Hammersmith Hospital remains as a leading centre for planned, specialist care for local and national patient populations, backed by rapid translational research, as well as outstanding maternity services provided by Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea Hospital on the same site.

### **Patient impact**

In 2019/20, we had a total of 254 specialist infectious diseases inpatients admitted at Hammersmith Hospital and in 2020/21 the total was 269.

Our demographic sample of a group of 265 patients (during the year 2020/21, April 2020 to mid-March 2021 – see table below) shows that 233 (88 per cent) of the patients admitted to hospital under the specialist infectious diseases inpatients service live within the North West London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) footprint. The highest proportion (25 per cent) came from Brent. 10 per cent of patients came from Hammersmith & Fulham.

<b>CCG Group</b>	<b>Number of Patients</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>North West London CCG</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>88%</b>
Brent	59	25%
West London	52	22%
Ealing	37	15%
Central	29	12%
Hammersmith & Fulham	24	10%
Hounslow	14	6%
Harrow	10	4%
Hillingdon	8	3%
Non-NWL CCGs	29	11%
Unknown	3	1%

### **Financial implications**

The case for change is based on maintaining and improving our infectious diseases inpatient service. The reasons for this proposal are therefore clinical and collaborative with the aim of improving patient care and outcomes, rather than financial.

## Benefits of the proposed change

Imperial College Healthcare wants to see the best possible care for patients who are admitted to hospital with a severe condition related to infectious diseases.

As set out above in the 'case for change' section, by implementing this proposal the benefits would be significant for patients, staff and the system of care:

- Better patient care
- Higher quality of outcomes
- Reduced ward moves and unwarranted cross-site transfers of patients
- Enhanced patient experience
- More staff training and professional development opportunities
- Improved system effectiveness

Under the proposal the infectious diseases patients presenting at St Mary's emergency department requiring hospital admission would remain on the St Mary's site and we would aim to accommodate the majority of patients presenting at the Charing Cross emergency department requiring hospital admission on the Charing Cross site, thus avoiding ward moves and patient transfers between sites as far as possible.

Inpatient consultant services would remain at Charing Cross Hospital for all admitted acute infectious diseases patients and daily consultant reviews would continue at Hammersmith Hospital to provide in-reach services for patients being cared for by other departments, while outpatient services would be maintained in their current form across all three main Trust sites.

The eight specialist inpatient beds currently used for infectious diseases inpatients at Hammersmith Hospital would be repurposed to other areas of patient care. As a result we will continue to use all the current beds for other areas of patient care.

Further engagement on this proposal is supported by the North West London Clinical Commissioning Group, which is the local organisation for the commissioning of infectious diseases services.

## Your feedback

We are asking patients, service users, local residents and other stakeholders about the proposal to move the inpatient service for patients with infectious diseases.

## Potential timescales

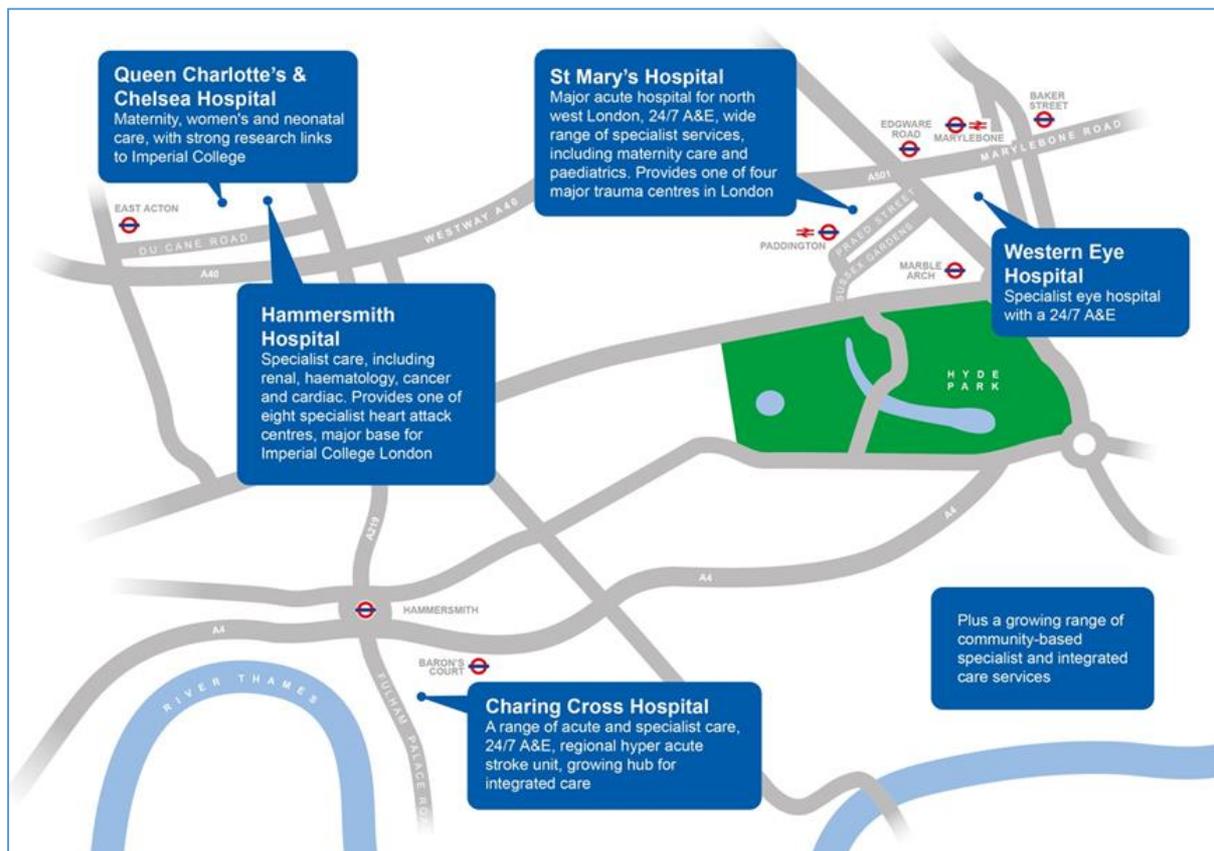
Subject to the feedback the Trusts receive on the proposal, it is expected that the timeframe would be for a decision to be made on implementation of the change in September 2021.

## Your comments and questions

You can provide any comments you wish to make and send any questions you may have on the proposal outlined in this document until the closing date of Friday 27 August 2021.

Please send your comments and questions to the email address:  
[imperial.communications@nhs.net](mailto:imperial.communications@nhs.net)

## Map of Imperial College Healthcare sites



You can also contact Imperial College Healthcare via our website:  
[www.imperial.nhs.uk](http://www.imperial.nhs.uk)