

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

Worcester Walk-In Health centre to open its doors to patients

As of tomorrow (Wednesday, August 12), anyone visiting, living or working in Worcester will be able to access GP appointments from 8am to 8pm every day of the year without booking an appointment.

The opening of Worcester Walk-In Health Centre means that anyone can access GP appointments without having to be registered, bringing health and wellbeing to people with busy, active lives who can't necessarily always find time to attend their own GP practice.

The Walk-in Health Centre, located in Farrier Street, Worcester, is run by Elgar Healthcare – a consortium of local GPs – who were announced as NHS Worcestershire's preferred bidder back in December 2008.

As well as providing all usual General Practice services for Worcestershire residents, the centre will also be focusing on improving access to those who tend to access services poorly.

Helping people stay well and healthy is a key priority for all working in the new Health Centre and some of these services will also be provided in other parts of the City.

Dr Adam Thompson, Co-Director of Elgar Healthcare Limited, said: "We are delighted to be opening our doors to the public tomorrow.

"The Walk-in Health Centre aims to provide appointments for people with busy lives who may not normally get to see their own GP with routine problems, rather than supplement the Primary Care Out of Hours Service.

"Patients will be able to register with us, just as they do with their usual GP surgery, and we will also be able to see up to 50 walk-in patients a day who are not registered with us. We are here to complement existing General Practice Surgeries in the county which already have high standards of care delivery.

"The centre will also focus on attracting groups in the community to whom healthcare has not always reached out to for a variety of reasons, as well as bringing additional health education to the community as the service develops."

Paul Bates, Chief Executive of NHS Worcestershire, said: "Worcester Walk-In Health Centre has been commissioned by NHS Worcestershire in response to the government's requirement for easy access to GP led services at a convenient location and during extended hours.

“Tomorrow’s opening means that everyone in Worcestershire will be able to access a GP appointment 12 hours a day, 365 days a year without having to book an appointment.

“This exciting development is part of our overall strategy dedicated to the improvement of access to primary care and complements the work we have been doing to encourage other GPs to open for longer. I am delighted to say that across the county 67 per cent of our GPs also now offer extended hours opening.”

ENDS

For further information contact

- Rebecca Bourne, Communications Manager, on 01905 760020 / 07775 816420 or email rebecca.bourne@worcestershire.nhs.uk
- Tom Grove, Communications Officer, on 01905 733734 / 07501 484255 or email tom.grove@worcestershire.nhs.uk