

News release

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For immediate release

**Local doctors taking on minor injury services**

From 1 April 2011 minor injury services at Market Harborough and District, Melton Mowbray and Rutland Memorial hospitals will be managed by local GP practices.

The Harborough service will be managed by Market Harborough Medical Centre; the Melton service by Latham House Medical Practice; and the Rutland service by Oakham Medical Practice.

Patients will see little change on 1 April, and the services will continue to be provided from the community hospitals under the current opening times.

GPs will run the service for 12 months until there is greater clarity about how new GP consortia – which will replace PCTs by 2013 – wish to commission minor injury care in the future.

The service opening hours are as follows:

* Market Harborough Minor Injury and Illness Service – Monday to Sunday, 9am to 5pm.
* Melton Mowbray Hospital Minor Injury and Illness Service – Weekends and Bank Holidays, 9.30am to 1.30pm. The separate weekday service provided at Latham House Medical Practice is not affected by these changes.
* Rutland Memorial Hospital Minor Injury and Illness Unit – Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. The weekend and Bank Holiday arrangement is not part of the new arrangement with Oakham Medical Practice. A GP-led service will continue to be provided 9am to 9pm by the separate Out of Hours service as it is now. Patients are encouraged to call the Out of Hours service before attending to get the most appropriate advice or a convenient appointment.

Dominic Cox, NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland’s deputy director of primary care, said: “I’m pleased that we’ve got this arrangement in place for the next 12 months, prior to the development of GP consortia.

“The practices are keen to retain services locally and although it’s initially a short-term arrangement, they will look at how they can integrate better with the minor injury units for the benefit of patients. This will include a review of whether normal opening times can be resumed.”

The move comes as nationally Primary Care Trusts are required to separate from their community health services by 1 April 2011. Leicestershire County and Rutland Community Health Services – the organisation which currently provides the hospital minor injury services – is being split up and integrated with a range of existing providers.

Dr Hamant Mistry, a GP at Market Harborough Medical Centre, said: “We are pleased to take over the running of the minor injury service in Market Harborough and a review of the current service provision is now being undertaken.”

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This press release was issued by Caroline Higgs at NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland. For more information, contact the communications office on 0116 295 7663.

Notes to editors:

NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland is the operating name for Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust (PCT).