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For immediate release

## **Work starting at Loughborough Hospital**

Work begins at the Loughborough Hospital next month in preparation for the new Urgent Care Centre, due to open on the site in April 2013.

The first stage will see improvements to the car park to accommodate an extra 183 spaces. This work will be done in phases, and while some disruption is expected, parking will still be available.

Dr Nick Pulman, Chair of the West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (WL CCG), said: "We will do our best to ensure that when people arrive at the hospital there are clear signs showing which areas of the car park are open, however, we do recommend people coming to the hospital allow extra time for their journeys".

If patients and visitors prefer not to bring their car into the hospital while the work is taking place, they can get public transport information from Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or online at [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info).

A number of services in the hospital are relocating within the building to make way for the Urgent Care Centre, which will be situated in the area that is currently Outpatients 3 Department. These are Podiatry Clinic, Podiatric Surgery, Orthotics, Dietetics and Adult Speech and Language. Patients have been informed of the new locations by the clinics directly and work is underway to update the signs in the hospital to ensure people can find their clinic. Reception staff will also be able to help direct patients and visitors.

The entrance to the current Outpatients Department 3 (Entrance 2) will be closed from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and patients and visitors to the hospital are asked to use either the main reception or entrance three when arriving at the hospital.

Dr Pulman adds: "When work is complete we will be able to deliver improved quality care and an increased range of services in a local setting".

"While we appreciate there will be some disruption for patients and visitors attending the hospital in the next few months, we hope ultimately the boost to services at the hospital will be something the people of Loughborough can be proud of."

The plans to create a new Urgent Care Centre at Loughborough Hospital to replace the Walk in Centre at Pinfold Gate were given the go ahead in February 2012 after public consultation.

The move will mean that patients who require urgent care but not acute A&E services can be treated at Loughborough Hospital and will not have to travel to Leicester Royal Infirmary. There will also be increased access to diagnostics such as scans, blood tests and x-rays at weekends, as well as observation bays.

The availability of observation beds would make further onsite monitoring possible, for example, following a head injury or asthmatic episode. Currently, these patients need to be transferred which can be distressing. As there are clinicians already working at the hospital there is also the potential to access their expertise on site. For example, doctors who specialise in the care of older people run clinics at the hospital; clinical staff already on duty at the hospital for regular outpatient fracture clinics could provide support to the staff working with urgent care patients.

Outpatients Department 3 at the Loughborough Hospital will be refurbished to make room for the new service and to improve accommodation for the services already offered there, enabling local people to access vital services closer to home in a modern, high quality health care setting.

WL CCG is committed to keeping people updated on the progress of the project and will be releasing more details in the coming months on the new urgent care service, the closure of the WIC and work to refurbish the hospital. People can also keep up to date by visiting the CCG's website at [www.westleicestershireccg.nhs.uk](http://www.westleicestershireccg.nhs.uk)

ENDS

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**Notes to editor:**

West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group was formed as part of the changes proposed to the NHS under the Health and Social Care Act. Clinical Commissioning Groups were formerly known as GP consortia. The West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group represents 50 GP practices and covers Hinckley & Bosworth, North Charnwood, North West Leicestershire and South Charnwood.