**Concerned staff say: “Use your Minor Injury Unit wisely”**

Residents of Ross-on-Wye and Leominster are being reminded that their local Minor Injury Units provide a limited range of treatments.

The reminder follows concerns raised by staff at the units who have recently dealt with patients requesting treatment for fairly serious injuries which should have been dealt with through a 999 call or a visit to the Accident and Emergency Department at the County Hospital in Hereford.

These include patients turning up with chest pains and **Anaphylaxis, which** is the most serious type of allergic reaction which can progress very quickly and may cause death without proper medical attention.

The kind of injuries which Minor Injury Units treat include: sprains and strains, broken bones without damage to the skin, wound infections, minor burns and scalds, minor head injuries, insect and animal bites, minor eye injuries and injuries to the back, shoulder and chest.

“Our Minor Injury Units are not Accident and Emergency Departments, and as such, do not have the facilities to treat conditions such as chest pain, breathing difficulties, major injuries, problems usually dealt with by a GP, stomach pains, gynaecological problems, pregnancy problems, allergic reactions, overdoses, alcohol related problems and mental health problems,” said A & E Consultant, Dr Jules Walton.

“Attending the MIUs with these type of complaints may delay treatment, so if it’s serious, don’t delay, call an ambulance.

“It’s also important to remember that outside of the 8.30am to 5.30pm opening hours, staff trained in the management of minor injuries and ailments are not available.

“Outside of these hours, the only nursing staff at the Community Hospital sites are those trained to look after patients on wards. These ward patients are placed at risk if ward nursing staff are called to deal with members of the public attending the MIU’s out of opening hours,” added Dr Walton.

**END**

**Notes to editors:**

* Wye Valley NHS Trust is the first integrated provider of hospital, community and adult social care services in the NHS in England. The Trust exists to improve the wellbeing, independence and health of the people we serve. We are the leading provider of health and social care in Herefordshire. By combining hospital, community and adult social care services, we can make good our promise to deliver a quality of care we would want for ourselves, our families and our friends.
* With an estimated annual turnover of around £160million, we employ around 3000 plus staff.  As the first integrated provider of acute, community and social care in England, we aim to build new relationships between our staff, patients, service users and their carers, and with the wider community.

John Burnett, communication and engagement manager 01432 372928