

Improving stroke care in hospital

What do you think?



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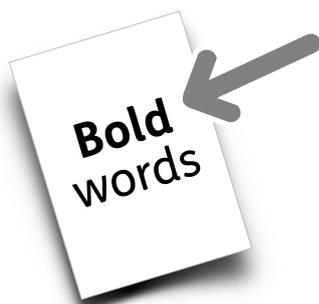
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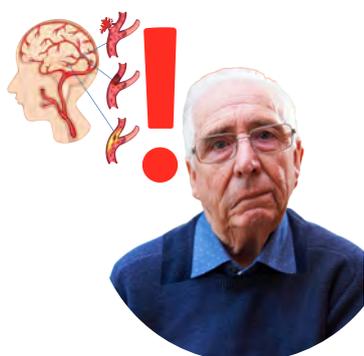


In this Easy Read document, key words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.

Introduction



The local NHS has been looking at how it can improve care for people who have had a **stroke**.



A **stroke** is a serious medical condition that happens when blood can't get to your brain properly.

A stroke can damage your brain and affect the way you talk, walk or use other parts of your body.



We have been looking at changing how we provide the care you receive in hospital in the 3 days after having a stroke - this is called hyper-acute stroke care.



We are planning to move all hyper-acute stroke care to Aintree University Hospital.



This information tells you:

- about our plans for a new stroke centre.
- how you can give us your thoughts on our plans for a new stroke centre.

Why we need to change



Hospital staff work hard to give everyone who has had a stroke the best care.



But sometimes they can't give the best care, because of the way stroke services are organised.



We don't have enough **stroke specialists**.

Stroke specialists are doctors, nurses and therapists who know lots about caring for people who have had a stroke.



The stroke specialists we have are spread across three hospitals:

- Aintree University Hospital.
- The Royal Liverpool Hospital.
- Southport Hospital.



This makes it difficult to make sure patients get the best care all of the time.



It is particularly important in the 3 days after having a stroke.



We have looked at what stroke **treatments** work best.

Treatments are ways that health staff help people to get better. For example, medicine or operations.



We found that some important treatments work best when they happen in a big stroke centre.

How we have involved people so far



We have spoken to:

- people who have had strokes, and



- their families and carers.



They helped us to think about what changes we should make to best help people who have had a stroke.

What we do at the moment



At the moment, there are three local hospitals that treat people who have just had a stroke:



- Aintree University Hospital



- The Royal Liverpool University Hospital



- Southport & Formby District General Hospital



Some local people also go to other hospitals, but we are only looking at care that happens at the three hospitals above.

What we want to do



We would like to have one centre in Aintree University Hospital for everyone who has just had a stroke.



They would spend the first 3 days at Aintree University Hospital.



After 3 days, about half of patients would carry on getting better at home.



About half of patients would receive further care and rehab at one of three stroke centres at:

- Aintree University Hospital.
- Broadgreen Hospital.
- Southport and Formby District General Hospital



Patients would not be able to get hyper-acute stroke care at:

- The Royal Liverpool University Hospital.
- Southport and Formby District General Hospital.

What our changes would mean



We think that our changes would mean:

- more patients receiving care from stroke specialists.



- patients being seen by stroke specialists at all times of day and night.



- patients being seen more quickly by the stroke team.



- stroke specialists can make quicker decisions about the best treatment.



- more use of treatments that reduce disability.



- our stroke care will follow national guidance.



- there will be more staff who are very skilled at caring for people who have had a stroke.

Ambulance journeys



At the moment, patients are usually taken by ambulance to their nearest hospital that provides emergency stroke care.

This would be one of Aintree, Royal Liverpool or Southport hospitals.



In the future, all patients would go to Aintree University Hospital.

For some people, this would mean that their journey in an ambulance could take longer.



Getting to hospital quickly is very important when you have a stroke.



But it is also important to be seen by stroke specialists when you arrive at hospital.



The new stroke centre at Aintree University Hospital would be better able to provide the best stroke care.

This means that even if some journeys to hospital were longer, it would still be better for patients.

Travel for family and friends



Family and friends are very important in helping a patient get better from a stroke.



If our changes go ahead, some patients will have to travel further to get to hospital.

Their family and friends might have to travel further to visit them.



But after 3 days:

- about half of patients will be able to go home.



- patients can go to Broadgreen or Southport hospitals, if this would be closer to where they live.

How much it would cost



Making the new stroke centre does not mean:

- fewer hospital beds.
- less money spent on stroke care.



It would mean more money for local services.



To pay for the stroke centre we would need:

- a one-off cost of about £4 million.



- about £1.9 million extra every year to run the service.

What do you think?



Please let us know what you think of our plans.

You can fill out a short survey by clicking this link or visiting this website:

www.liverpoolccg.nhs.uk/stroke



You can also get in touch to ask for a paper survey or a survey for people with aphasia by:

- email: csc.consultation@nhs.net



- phone: 0151 247 6406

- text: 07920 206 386



You will need to tell us what you think by 14 February 2022.

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