

Respiratory Virtual Ward HUTH – Patients with an East Riding GP.

A new Respiratory Virtual Ward has been developed to support safe and effective care for exacerbating COPD patients across Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire. The virtual ward aims to allow patients to receive the specialist care that they need at home, including in care homes, safely and conveniently, providing an alternative to hospital admission.

The Respiratory Virtual Ward (VW) is a collaborative service led by Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (HUTH) in partnership with City Healthcare Partnership (CHCP) and Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB). Other providers involved in elements of service delivery include: the Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS), GP Out-of-Hours services, District Nursing, Complex Case Managers, NHS 111 and Adult Social Care.

Patients can be referred to the service by health care professionals across Hull and East Yorkshire and patients already known to the Respiratory Clinical Assessment Service (RCAS) will be able to self-refer for consideration of direct admission to the Respiratory Virtual Ward. All patients will be assessed for appropriateness to be admitted to the Respiratory Virtual Ward by a member of the RCAS team. Where eligible, patients will be admitted to the Respiratory Virtual Ward and be treated in the comfort of their own home by a team of specialist respiratory nurses and physiotherapists with respiratory consultant support. .

The service operates across Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire; accepting referrals from those registered with a Hull or East Riding GP. Referrals will be accepted 7 days a week between 8am and 4:30pm. (*Hours of operation will be reviewed during ongoing service development and expansion with the aim of extending service hours to 8am – 8pm 7 days a week).

☐ Eligibility Criteria

- ☐ Referral from a health care professional that has assessed the patient or patient self-referral if already known to the RCAS team.
- ☐ Considered at risk of hospital admission
- ☐ Confirmed diagnosis of COPD.
- ☐ Suspected or confirmed exacerbation of COPD.

Exclusion criteria;

- ☐ Considered to require urgent response / medical emergency.
- ☐ Suspected diagnosis other than AECOPD as cause for current presentation.
- ☐ New ECG changes.
- ☐ Requires intravenous therapy.
- ☐ New, untreated atrial fibrillation.
- ☐ Considered inappropriate for VW by RCAS clinician.

To make a referral, contact the RCAS Respiratory Virtual Ward on 01482 675035.