

Wellington TODAY

Summer 2007 | Issue 05

The Wellington Diagnostics and Outpatients Centre Opens at Golders Green



The patient reception and waiting area at 296 Golders Green Road

The Wellington Diagnostics and Outpatients Centre, providing healthcare services for all the family, is now open at 296 Golders Green Road in North London.

The Wellington Hospital has teamed up with local doctors and consultants to open the centre which is the first of its kind to be developed by any HCA hospital in London. The centre provides healthcare for all the family from the unborn child right through to the retired.

It is unique in London in having a range of state of the art diagnostic equipment including the latest and fastest 64 slice

CT scanner, the most powerful open MRI currently available and a range of X-Ray and ultrasound equipment. All of this equipment is fully integrated with the main hospital Diagnostic and Imaging Unit.

In addition the centre has the normal range of cardiac diagnostic equipment and the full range of blood and other tests is available at the centre.

Keith Hague, Chief Executive Officer of The Wellington Hospital and the main architect of the scheme said he was delighted by the response from doctors, consultants and patients.

“We wanted to provide fast access to the best available in healthcare in the

community where formerly, people had to travel some distance to reach top quality care,” he said.

“This way we have brought doctors, consultants, specialist nurses and imaging staff closer to the patient. I would like to thank the centre’s Clinical Director, Dr David Lipkin, for his foresight and leadership in bringing together such an outstanding team,” he said.

For more detail of what the centre can offer please visit: www.wellingtondiagnosticscentre.com

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The Wellington Balance Centre Expands



A patient undergoes tests on the new Smart EquiTest

With one in four of the population suffering from some form of dizziness at some stage in their life, the demand for vestibular and balance diagnosis and

treatment has grown in recent years. The Wellington Balance Centre is now fully equipped to provide an assessment and rehabilitation service for patients with vestibular and balance related disorders.

The team of ENT consultants, neurologists, radiologists, audiologists and physiotherapists combine to ensure patients receive the highest standards of assessment and care.

Sophia Lawson, the Wellington's Head of Physiotherapy, says the centre now has the ability to offer patient appointments within three days of a referral. "Balance problems can develop slowly or over a very short time frame but they pose enormous difficulty to people who find themselves unable to lead a normal life. Patients deserve to be seen and assessed very quickly," she said.

"We offer a fast and comprehensive consultant assessment and a full range of diagnostic vestibular function tests which include a video-nystagmography (VNG) test; calorics and computerised diagnostic posturography plus a full range of audiological tests," said Sophia.

One of the recently acquired pieces of rehabilitation is the Smart EquiTest posturography system which focuses on the use of visual, vestibular and somatosensory cues for balance. In addition the centre can offer occupational therapy, psychology and vestibular rehabilitation programmes if patients require.

For more information on the services provided by the centre please call 020 7483 5186 or visit www.thewellingtonbalancecentre.com

New technology Creates New Capabilities for Speech and Language Therapy

The Wellington's newly expanded Speech and Language Therapy Department has just taken delivery of a custom built diagnostic machine that will enable faster and more accurate diagnosis and treatment of voice and swallowing problems.

The Karl Storz AIDA (Advanced Image and Data Archiving System) machine will be linked to the hospital's PACS imaging storage system and allows two types of scope, flexible and rigid, to examine, with greater efficiency and detail than was available before, the back of the throat and vocal chords, swallowing efficiency and general health.

Serving both inpatients and outpatients, the Speech and Language Therapy department looks after patients with

communication and/or swallowing problems as a result of stroke, head injury and a number of neurological diseases; patients with a tracheostomy and ENT problems such as vocal chord nodules, vocal strain, post head and neck surgery or trauma and post laryngectomy.

Chetan Vyas, Head of Speech and Language Therapy leads a team of eight therapists. He says the new machine has meant a step-change for diagnosis and treatment. "We can for example use a strobe light on the rigid scope to record and view the vocal chords in use. The strobe slows the movement down and a consultant can see whether movement is normal; whether there are any nodules present," he said.



The new AIDA machine in action

"The examination is recorded and we can either load this onto the PACS system or burn a CD or both and treatment can begin very quickly. If we spot the early signs of cancer for example, then the outcome is much more likely to be successful. We can look at swallowing efficiency with greater detail and clarity. This machine really does give us more options to help patients," he said.

What Modern Matrons Bring to The Wellington

The introduction of Modern Matrons at The Wellington has been declared a tremendous success with very considerable benefits in patient care, staff training and efficiency according to the latest audit figures.

Chief Nursing Officer, Kim Handel, said that whilst patient complaints had fallen, patient satisfaction had risen and staff esprit had improved too.

“We have four very talented Modern Matrons here and they have proved to be excellent communicators with staff and patients and they have been the catalyst for new standards of patient care and staff training and management in this hospital,” she said.

“We already have some of the highest standards and we must not be complacent or stop trying to improve but the achievements brought about by this system, after a relatively short period of time, are impressive,” she said.

The four Modern Matrons are Gerry Sloane, Julie Gray, Sandy Tysom and Jennifer Rawson. Jennifer Rawson looks after 80 nurses in the 45 bed neuro rehabilitation unit at Wellington North and has worked in rehab for many years.

“It is the patient who is the focus of our work. Rehab nursing can be very stressful, you have got to have a sense of humour and total commitment. I see these patients from day one and I follow them through every day. I am looking at every aspect of their care and it’s great to see them going home happy – that’s the reward for us,” she said.

Julie Gray who is Modern Matron for floors four and five of the South building says her time is spent totally on activities that lead to higher standards of patient care.

“My time is purely spent on patient care; making sure they are receiving the highest standard of clinical care and that they are happy with our services during their stay in this hospital. We audit everything we do for patients; every process and if something’s not right – however small it is - we put it right immediately,” she said.

“People come into hospital and they need to see someone in charge and have the confidence to talk to them about any aspect of their care and their relatives too. As Modern Matrons, we are always listening to our patients and trying to find ways of doing things better, and it works!” said Julie.



Jennifer Rawson



Julie Gray



Gerry Sloane



Sandy Tysom

Exclusive Visiting Doctor Programme Signed with Kuwait Ministry of Health

The parent company of The Wellington, HCA International Ltd, has signed an exclusive deal with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health to provide consultants and physicians for the Visiting Doctor Programme in Kuwait.

A typical visiting doctor programme lasts five days from Sunday to Thursday when a consultant will hold outpatients clinics,

carry out operations and hold lectures for local consultants.

HCA has negotiated a very favourable remuneration package for participating consultants and if you would like to find out more about this scheme, please call Elizabeth Boulton, Head of International Business on 0797 977 0430 or email her on Elizabeth.boulton@HCA HealthCare.co.uk

Major Advances in Arrhythmia Treatment at The Wellington

Cardiologists are reporting faster treatment times and much improved success rates for complex arrhythmia cases following the introduction of new mapping systems at The Wellington Cardiac Rhythm Management Centre.

With the recent completion of the new cardiac and intensive care facilities at Wellington North came the introduction of the new Navex Fusion mapping system to complement the existing Carto-Merge system. This software enables radiologists and cardiologists to use the hospital's 64 slice CT scanner to produce more anatomically accurate three-dimensional internal maps of the heart than has been possible before now.

Dr Antony Chow, one of the eight cardiologists specialising in arrhythmia said the combination of the new software, the 64 slice CT scanner and the latest catheter laboratory equipment at the Wellington had made a big difference in the speed and effectiveness of treatments such as ablations.

"We have been able to cut down the time the procedures take enormously; our mapping of the heart is more



A patient undergoes tests on the new Smart EquiTest

accurate and the outcomes are so much more successful now," said Dr Chow. "In 1999 it was taking us over ten hours to carry out an ablation procedure whereas now the time is down to between two and a half and three hours.

"At the same time the success rates have risen from around 30% to between 80 and 90% and that's not all. The size of the X-ray dose during the procedure is now only 10% of what it used to be just five years ago – it's about the same as an angiogram - and that means the procedure is so much safer for the patient and all of us than it was just five years ago," he said.

Cardiac arrhythmias are one of the top ten causes for people to be taken to A & E with many people unaware they have a problem. Symptoms vary from feeling faint to palpitations to cardiac arrest and the most common arrhythmia affects one percent of the population under the age of 60 with the incidence rising rapidly among the retired.



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Major Wellington Refurbishment Completed on Time

The biggest expansion and refurbishment programme in the 30 year history of The Wellington Hospital has just been completed on schedule and on budget.

The programme which has topped £30 million over a four year period has seen every area of the hospital expanded, reconfigured or refurbished with new equipment such as the two MRIs, a 64 slice CT scanner and new catheter laboratories being installed at the same time.

The Chief Executive Officer of The Wellington, Mr Keith Hague said, "We now have one of the most extensive and best equipped facilities in the private sector and we thank our patients, doctors and staff for their support and understanding while this work was going on."