

Renal Ward News – May 2020

In early April 2020 the OUH announced that preparatory work for the new renal ward would have to be halted temporarily to allow the Churchill's 20 bed Wytham Ward to be used for patients with suspected COVID-19.

In the weeks since then we have seen and heard in daily news broadcasts how frontline medical teams across the country have been working flat-out to deal with the huge influx of coronavirus patients. Through this period, our renal teams have themselves been extremely busy dealing with the issues thrown up during this crisis.

- Renal Day case at the Churchill has become the dedicated isolation unit for CoVid positive dialysis patients who are well enough to stay out of hospital
- Six stations have been set aside on John Warin ward to provide HD at the bedside for CoVid positive dialysis patients who need hospital admission
- The unit has had to plan for supporting Intensive Care because the incidence of Acute Kidney Injury in CoVid patients requiring ventilation is about 20%
- The units have had to cope with the national (indeed international) shortage of haemofiltration fluid which has involved providing dialysis in five intensive care units in the region (Oxford being the busiest by far). This is set to continue for a few more months
- The Horton Dialysis Unit has had to move to the Oxford NOC to expand critical care space at the Horton
- The unit has been reviewing all outpatient appointments and where possible has moved to non-face-to-face appointments by telephone or video call. This meant 90% of patients did not need to attend hospital for their appointments. (The unit continues to evaluate this to see how much outpatient work can be safely done by telephone.)

Hopefully, we are over the worst of the initial coronavirus outbreak in the UK, although CoVid-19 is still present as a potent threat and problems may arise as the lockdown restrictions are gradually lifted. Our Renal Units are looking to start back with normal activity alongside CoVid-19. This means the work for the new renal ward should start again in the next few weeks and the Horton Dialysis Unit should be repatriated by the end of July.

We will provide more updates and progress reports when we can.