

**PRESS RELEASE**

Friday 17 May

**Do Not go to A&E unless absolutely necessary**

**People in Worcestershire are being asked not to go to Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments unless they have a serious or life threatening condition.**

The number of people going to Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments in the county inappropriately is rising, putting an unnecessary amount of pressure on hospital A&E teams. Many patients that are using A&E departments have minor injuries that could have been treated more appropriately at an alternative NHS service.

NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is urging the public to choose their health services wisely and to think twice before they go to A&E.

**Ruth Davoll, Urgent Care Lead for NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups in Worcestershire, said:**

“We are seeing an increase in the number of visitors to A&E departments in our local Accident and Emergency Departments. More than ever, we need to make sure that emergency services are free to help people with the greatest need.

Patients with a wide range of minor injuries which do not require a visit to A&E (such as cuts, wounds, sprains, strains and minor burns) can also be treated at Minor Injury Units at Bromsgrove, Evesham, Kidderminster, Malvern and Tenbury. This will help to relieve pressure on hospital A&E teams and reduce waiting times for patients”.

**Dr Jonathan Wells, local GP and Chair of NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG said:**

‘We have seen a significant rise in the number of people going to A&E which is adding increasing pressure on A&E departments. I would urge people with non- life threatening conditions to make use of alternative NHS services such as the Minor Injury Unit (MIU). This will enable patients to get treatment quicker and allow A&E staff to concentrate on those who have more serious or life threatening conditions’.

To find out the opening hours of your local Minor Injury Unit visit [www.redditchandbromsgroveccg.nhs.uk](http://www.redditchandbromsgroveccg.nhs.uk) You can also visit the Worcester Walk-in Health Centre for treatment, which is open from 8am to 8pm, 365 days a year. If in doubt speak to your GP or if your GP is closed, then Worcestershire’s GP Out of Hours Service can be contacted on 0300 123 3211.

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**Notes for Editors**

- For more information about NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group please visit [www.redditchandbromsgroveccg.nhs.uk](http://www.redditchandbromsgroveccg.nhs.uk)
- NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG represents 22 GP practices and serves a patient population of 170,000 patients.

- Find out all the latest news by 'liking' our page on Facebook [www.facebook.com/redditchandbromsgroveccg](http://www.facebook.com/redditchandbromsgroveccg)
- Follow Dr Jonathan Wells, Chair and Clinical Lead for RBCCG on Twitter @RBCCG\_Chair

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