

PRESS RELEASE

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Get minor injuries treated at the right place

Worcestershire residents are being urged to get their scrapes, sprains and broken bones treated in the right place to help relieve the pressure on other parts of the health system.

Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust and the counties three NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove, NHS South Worcestershire and NHS Wyre Forest) are urging people who suffer cuts, wounds, sprains, minor burns and broken bones to visit their Minor Injury Unit, rather than going into A&E. This will mean patients get treatment quicker and allow A&E staff to concentrate on those who have more serious or life threatening conditions. The average waiting time at MIU's last month (February 2013) was just over half an hour.

Matt Stringer, Head of Community Care services for Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, who run MIUs, said: "Easter holidays are traditionally a time when pressure on most parts of the health system is increased, especially A&E. It is really important that you get the care and treatment you need in the most appropriate place, which for sprains, wounds, small burns etc. is in your local Minor Injury Unit. You will get the treatment you need quicker so you can get back to enjoying the holidays. Minor Injury Units are located in Bromsgrove, Evesham, Kidderminster, Malvern and Tenbury. For more information, including opening times, visit www.hacw.nhs.uk/MIU"

Ruth Davoll, Urgent Care Lead for the counties three NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove, NHS South Worcestershire and NHS Wyre Forest), said,

"I'd like to remind people that they should only visit A&E if they have a serious or life threatening condition. There are a range of alternative NHS services that people can visit for treatment of less serious conditions including the Worcester Walk-in Centre on Farrier Street, Worcester."

"We are seeing an increase in pressure throughout the health system. More than ever, we need to make sure that emergency services are free to help people with the greatest need. If we can get more people to care for themselves when they have common complaints such as muscular, minor sports injuries and coughs and colds, this will go some way to easing the pressures on our Accident and Emergency Departments."

More information about choosing the right health service at the right time, as well as where you can access our services, can be found at www.hacw.nhs.uk

#ENDS#

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