



Greater Manchester Weekly Winter Stakeholder Briefing

14th March 2024 – Issue 16

This weekly briefing is intended to update stakeholders on how services in Greater Manchester are performing and how we work together to manage demand and provide care and support to the public.

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Media statement

Mark Fisher, chief executive of NHS Greater Manchester

“Winter illnesses continue to circulate. Many of which can be managed at home and [NHS UK](#) has lots of information available to help people. If you are unsure which healthcare service best meets your needs, you can phone NHS 111 or use the online chat service at any time for professional healthcare advice. As well as being treated more quickly, this will ensure emergency departments (A&E) can focus on treating people with serious and life-threatening conditions.”

Weekly narrative

Services remain busy in all areas as is usual for the winter months. NHS services are gearing up for the long Easter weekend later this month. Easter is traditionally a very busy time of year for emergency services, when reduced hours at some GP practices and pharmacies can leave some people unsure about where to go for help.

However, many services remain open during this period to provide people with medical advice and support needed. Most people who come to accident and emergency departments are in genuine need, but if people need medical care and it's not an emergency, they may face a long wait, and there are several alternatives to consider that could help avoid that. Use NHS Greater Manchester's handy service finder to help: [Services | Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership \(gmintegratedcare.org.uk\)](https://gmintegratedcare.org.uk).

Primary care data

There are approximately 1,800 primary care providers, with a workforce of around 22,000.

- ✚ Dentistry – of 239 practices reporting, 33% of dental practices are feeling a significant or very significant increase in demand, with a further 16% of practices facing extreme demand.
- ✚ General practice - of 278 practices reporting, 28% of GP practices are feeling a significant or very significant increase in demand, with a further 1% of practices facing extreme demand.
- ✚ Optometry - of 86 practices reporting, 7% of optical sites are feeling a significant or very significant increase in demand, with a further 2% of practices facing extreme demand.
- ✚ Pharmacy – of 135 pharmacies reporting, 27% of sites are feeling significantly challenged and 4% are feeling challenged but coping.

Note, work is underway to encourage more practices to use the pulse check so that support can



be provided where appropriate.

Urgent and emergency care data

NHS England publish a weekly online report each Thursday showing verified data across provider organisations including all hospital trusts. You can access the latest urgent and emergency care 'sit rep' here: [Statistics » Urgent and Emergency Care Daily Situation Reports 2023-24 \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/urgent-and-emergency-care-daily-situation-reports-2023-24/).

- ✚ For the week 4th March to 10th March there were 26,681 attendances; of which type 1 attendances were 19,218. Attendances are higher than the previous reporting period including for Type 1.
- ✚ Hospital bed occupancy across Greater Manchester acute trusts has been on average for the period 91.5%, with the peak at 92.5%.
- ✚ Paediatric services remain challenged in relation to bed occupancy although has seen variation over this period compared to previous reporting period.
- ✚ Attendances at emergency departments for mental health conditions have remained stable.
- ✚ Ambulance activity has been high with 4,467 ambulances attending Greater Manchester hospitals which is higher than last reporting period.
- ✚ Definitions on types of attendance can be found using this [link](#).

Hospital discharge data

The discharge figures are a snapshot in time provided for the weekly brief to illustrate both demand and pressure. These figures will be shared weekly.

- ✚ There were 887 people medically fit for discharge from acute trusts as of 13th March.
- ✚ This week (7th March to 13th March) there were 856 admissions to hospital across Greater Manchester and 940 discharges.

Discharge data may reflect variation in average length of stay per bed and discharge location.

Useful information

- ✚ **NHS Greater Manchester is reminding people to be prepared for the Easter Bank Holiday and to order prescriptions in advance to avoid any complications or delays:** [People in Greater Manchester urged to get their repeat prescriptions and know how to get help over the Easter Bank Holiday | Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership \(gmintegratedcare.org.uk\)](https://www.gmintegratedcare.org.uk/people-in-greater-manchester-urged-to-get-their-repeat-prescriptions-and-know-how-to-get-help-over-the-easter-bank-holiday/).