



## Greater Manchester Weekly Winter Stakeholder Briefing

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 – Issue 17

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

After another busy week, particularly in acute care, it's important to look ahead to the upcoming Easter bank holiday weekend to ensure the people of Greater Manchester are prepared and to help reduce the impact on the NHS. This means raising awareness of the importance of ordering and collecting any vital prescriptions in plenty of time ahead of the bank holiday weekend, stocking up on every day medical essentials, and emphasising the 'Get To Know Where To Go' campaign messaging to call 111 first for non-emergencies but to still call 999 if it is a life-threatening emergency. By doing all this, everyone can play their part in ensuring the Easter bank holiday is a happy, safe and enjoyable one for all.

## Weekly narrative

Acute care pressures remain significant this week with some sites reporting significant challenges, and high numbers of people waiting in emergency departments. Bed occupancy levels remain high including across paediatric wards. Primary and community services are busy, and some issues remain in dentistry regarding late notice patient cancellations and high levels of staff sickness.

## 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 87 practices reporting, 7% of optical sites are feeling a significant or very significant increase in demand, with a further 1% of practices facing extreme demand.
- ✚ Pharmacy – of 137 pharmacies reporting, 26% 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://statistics.nhs.uk/urgent-and-emergency-care-daily-situation-reports-2023-24).

- ✚ For the week 11<sup>th</sup> March to 17<sup>th</sup> March there were 27,517 attendances; of which type 1 attendances were 19,397. Attendances are higher than the previous reporting period including for Type 1. Calls to all services are also high this week.
- ✚ Hospital bed occupancy across Greater Manchester acute trusts has been on average for the period 91.9%, with the peak at 92.8%.
- ✚ 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 however the system continues to be significantly constrained by a lack of mental health bed capacity in Greater Manchester, as well as nationally.
- ✚ Ambulance activity has been high with 4,290 ambulances attending Greater Manchester hospitals though this is lower 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 857 people medically fit for discharge from acute trusts as of 20<sup>th</sup> March.
- ✚ This week (14<sup>th</sup> March to 20<sup>th</sup> March) there were 757 admissions to hospital across Greater Manchester and 746 discharges.

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

## Useful information

- ✚ The Spring 2024 phase of the on-going Get To Know Where To Go campaign is now available to promote. The quickest and easiest way to support the campaign is to look out for the campaign assets on our social media channels and share to your followers. You can also share **#GTKWTG** posts from NHS Greater Manchester's social channels to your own channels. The toolkit document and assets can be downloaded from the [campaigns page on the NHS GM website](#).
- ✚ Next Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March is the last day for anyone eligible to get the flu vaccine. You may be able to book your flu vaccination at your local GP surgery if you are eligible. Or if you are aged 18 and over, you can [find a pharmacy that offers NHS flu vaccination](#). Further information can be found at: [www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations](https://www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations) or call 119 for free if you can't get online.