



Greater Manchester Weekly Winter Stakeholder Briefing

28th March 2024 – Issue 18

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. **This week is the last winter briefing. Feedback welcome: gmscp.media@nhs.net.**

Contents

Media statement	2
Weekly narrative	2
Primary care data	2
Urgent and emergency care data.....	3
Hospital discharge data	3
Useful information.....	3



Media statement

Mark Fisher, chief executive of NHS Greater Manchester

“I hope that everyone enjoys the long weekend ahead but if you become unwell, there are a range of NHS services available for you to use. Over the bank holiday weekend, contact NHS 111 if you urgently need medical help or advice, but it’s not an emergency. The service is staffed by a team of fully trained advisers, supported by experienced nurses and paramedics and is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

“Greater Manchester has urgent dental and eye care services, mental health helplines, out-of-hours GP provision, and several pharmacies will also be open over the Easter weekend. They can provide free health advice to support you to self-care and no appointment is necessary. A&E departments and 999 are still available to treat the most serious and life-threatening conditions.

“My profound thanks to health and care staff including in the voluntary sector who will be working this weekend to ensure people can access care around-the-clock.

“Best wishes for a peaceful Easter.”

Weekly narrative

Bed occupancy continues to remain high this week though all Trusts have had a concerted effort to get people home or to another appropriate care setting ahead of the Easter weekend. GPs and pharmacies have been pressured and managing repeat prescription requests ahead of the Bank Holiday. All services have faced ongoing pressures throughout the winter months.

Primary care data

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

- ✚ Dentistry – of 239 practices reporting, 35% 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, 8% of optical sites are feeling a significant or very significant increase in demand, with a further 1% of practices facing extreme demand.
- ✚ Pharmacy – of 140 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://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/urgent-and-emergency-care-daily-situation-reports-2023-24/).

- ✚ For the week 18th March to 24th March there were 27,954 attendances; of which type 1 attendances were 19,520. 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 91.4%, 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 is significantly constrained by a lack of mental health bed capacity in Greater Manchester, as well as nationally.
- ✚ Ambulance activity has been high with 4,450 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 883 people medically fit for discharge from acute trusts as of 27th March.
- ✚ This week (21st March to 27th March) there were 863 admissions to hospital across Greater Manchester and 926 discharges.

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

Useful information

- ✚ **When you use the right NHS service, you get the right treatment sooner. Get to know where to go:** [Get to know where to go | Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership \(gmintegratedcare.org.uk\)](https://www.gmintegratedcare.org.uk/). Mental health support will continue to be available throughout the Bank Holiday period. Find [details of your local services](#).



- ✚ **Greater Manchester Bank Holiday pharmacy opening hours:** [Bank Holiday pharmacy opening hours | Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership \(gmintegratedcare.org.uk\)](#).