

Briefing note for Cllr Mark Williams

In response to the following query:

The numbers of people using the Dulwich Hospital phlebotomy service, with a brief comment its capacity and efficiency.

It is difficult to be precise about the number of patients attending Dulwich hospital for phlebotomy, as the information reported is on a pathology test basis, not a patient basis and some patients have multiple tests done on a single phlebotomy visit.

From the most recent information we have, the average number of patients who received a blood test during 2012/13 was 3,173 per month. The number of patients receiving a blood test varied from month to month. We estimate there are 6,000 blood test requests per month from all Southwark GP practices.

The CCG is aware that there are sometimes very long waits at Dulwich hospital for blood tests and that this impacts upon patient experience. This has been raised with Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust via our contracting processes. The CCG carried out a review of phlebotomy in the last year, and are considering a range of options to improve the service, including shifting this to a more dispersed locality based model.

The issue of phlebotomy is under consideration as part of the current Dulwich consultation, and as the CCG develops its primary and community care strategy, we will be developing options and an implementation plan to improve access to phlebotomy for all Southwark patients.

Tamsin Hooton
Director of Service Redesign

26 April 2013