

12 April 2010

To:
GP Practices
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NHS Public Health Directorate

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Dear Colleagues

NEW SOMERSET DIABETES SERVICE GOES LIVE ACROSS SOMERSET

We are very pleased to report that the new Somerset Diabetes Specialist Nursing and Dietetics Service is ready to receive referrals from GP practices and secondary care clinicians, with intermediate level clinics and structured education courses now available across the county .

This represents an expansion and development of the intermediate diabetes services previously available only in the Mendip and South Somerset areas and is a key outcome of a partnership project involving clinicians from secondary and primary care, patients, WyvernHealth.com Practice Based Commissioning Consortium and NHS Somerset.

The Somerset Diabetes Specialist Nursing and Dietetics Service forms part of a whole system of integrated care for adult patients with diabetes, the key features of which are set out in the attached Information Sheet for Healthcare Professionals. The Information Sheet also provides details of where to go and who to contact for further information on the pathway as a whole.

More detailed information, specifically on the Somerset Diabetes Specialist Nursing and Dietetics Service, including names and contact details of specialist nursing staff, locations of services, referral criteria and the method of referral is also attached. Updates to these arrangements will be issued by Somerset Community Health as the service evolves.

The Somerset Diabetes Specialist Nursing and Dietetics Service is staffed by a team of highly qualified and experienced specialist nurses who will work closely with secondary care and primary care clinicians to deliver integrated care packages for patients. Some of the specialist nurses in the new service have been seconded from the acute hospitals, others are from the pre-existing service, whilst others are new appointments. The service is led by Su Down, one of a very small pool of Diabetes Nurse Consultants in the country and a driving force behind this new development.

As the diabetes clinical leads for the main provider organisations contributing to the overall care pathway for adult patients with diabetes, we are committed to making it work effectively for patients and will be meeting together on a regular basis to review and address any issues that may arise.

In the meantime, if you have any initial queries or concerns about Diabetes Services in Somerset, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



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