

Five Rivers Vascular Network Briefing for Suffolk HOSC.

Vascular services for the population of east Suffolk are managed by the Five Rivers Vascular Network.

The Five Rivers Vascular Network was developed through clinical consensus and collaboration between CHUFT and IHT, and built on a successful shared on call arrangement for emergency vascular services which had been in place for some 5 years previously. To meet new national standards, the transfer of all arterial surgery – both emergency and elective – was moved onto one site at Colchester in July 2012.

Both of the providers are required to work together as a network to ensure the service delivered is effective.

There are some current issues with the service and a recent meeting with both providers identified some key actions required by the network to ensure that these were addressed, by the end of April.

Issues currently identified include a requirement for a more robust clinical leadership of the service and the need for clinicians on both sites to work together to ensure the full range of outpatient clinic services are provided at both Ipswich and Colchester.

NHS England meet regularly with the network to ensure key issues are addressed in a collaborative way. The latest meeting provided an end of April deadline to ensure any and all outstanding actions were completed.

Vascular services for other areas in Suffolk are provided at Cambridge as the arterial centre for the west of the county and Norwich as the arterial centre for the north of the county.

Pam Evans

Senior Service Specialist NHS England

21 January 2014