

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Halesowen News
Date of article	Thursday 29 th January 2015
Reporter	Sarah Cousin
Headline	Patient ‘abandoned’ as treatment on hold
First paragraph/s of article	A DISABLED Halesowen man, who suffers from severe back pain, feels “abandoned” by Russells Hall Hospital after his treatment was stopped last November.
Press enquiry summary	<p>Patient Tony Smith has lignocaine infusion treatment at Russells Hall Hospital. The treatment he has takes five days on a ward as an inpatient and Mr Smith has been having this treatment for 20 years. The new treatment is three to four hours and patients return home afterwards.</p> <p>He said had heard from another patient that his treatment would be stopping on its current ward (A1) and moving to a day case unit. He said he contacted the hospital to query this, having not received a letter about the changes. Mr Smith said he has since had a letter but that he has had no details about frequency of treatment or when it will start.</p> <p>Mr Smith said he had endured a ‘miserable Christmas’ due to being left in pain. He has complained about a lack of communication and being left in pain. He feels abandoned.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can we confirm the facts? 2. Can we answer his complaints about poor communications, being left in pain with no treatment and there still no sign of treatment happening?
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p>	

The Dudley Group has made new arrangements for intravenous lignocaine (also known as lidocaine) treatment for patients as part of a review of a number of services we offer at Russells Hall Hospital

Rather than having to stay in hospital for five days with an eight hour infusion each day of their stay, patients will now receive one infusion of up to three hours and can return to their own homes the same day. The new arrangements also mean that patients will no longer have their appointments rearranged due to bed shortages.

The new treatment is just as effective and the change brings the Trust in line with every other centre across the country who also now offer the lignocaine infusions as a day case treatment.

All patients affected were informed about the changes to their treatment via letter in December 2014.

It would be inappropriate for us to comment on an individual patient's treatment; however, we would always encourage patients who have concerns or worries about their treatment to contact a member of the team involved in their care or our Patient Advice and Liaison Service on free phone 0800 073 0510.

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