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For local media

PRESS RELEASE

Award winning cardiac assessment unit at Russells Hall Hospital

Congratulations to the cardiac assessment unit in the Emergency Department at Russells Hall Hospital for winning the Initiative of the Year Award as part of the Forward Healthcare Awards 2019!

The Forward Healthcare Awards celebrates and shares great work across health and care, and the cardiac assessment unit (CAU) in collaboration with the Emergency Department, won the award yesterday for their approach to dealing with cardiac patients.

Launched in November 2018, CAU has greatly reduced the time patients wait to be seen, which has led to the early diagnosis of several myocardial infarctions (MIs) and reduced admissions.

CAU is a six-chaired specialist area near the Emergency Department, run by our cardiac nurse specialists and supported by the on-call cardiology consultant/registrar. It sees patients with chest pain and a low to intermediate suspicion of having an acute coronary syndrome (ACS) or other cardiac conditions where patients are ambulant, such as newly-discovered atrial fibrillation (AF) or other arrhythmias.

These patients all get seen within an hour – the current average is 30 minutes - by a specialist nurse, are monitored on telemetry, get their blood tests/chest x-rays (CXR) done in a timely manner and are all discussed with a cardiologist. Their average stay is about four hours.

This has led to the early diagnosis of several MIs, the outpatient management of many arrhythmias that historically would have been admitted, and the safe discharge of the majority of patients, many with further outpatient tests.

The Forward Healthcare Awards celebrates those making an initiative which is patient-focused to highlight excellence, and the unit in collaboration with ED won in the category of Initiative of the Year.

Diane Wake, chief executive said, "I'm thrilled that our cardiac assessment unit team has won this award and has been recognised for the great service they are providing to patients.

“This service highlights great team working between our Emergency Department and cardiology teams to improve how we care for chest pain patients.

“The teams involved have delivered a visionary service, committed to patient care, with a determination to succeed and keep patients safe.”

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