Welcome to our Assisted Conception Unit

Established in 1991, the ACU at Guy’s and St Thomas’ has developed a reputation for excellence in both NHS and private infertility treatment. We are one of the leading innovators in the field of fertility.

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We are the largest and most successful clinic in the UK for Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD).

Our 2014 Success Rates:

- Clinic Pregnancy Rate: up to 49% (age dependent)
- Multiple Pregnancy Rate: 13% per pregnancy, 14% per clinic pregnancy; none miscarried

How to Refer:
It's easy to refer to the unit; we have a comprehensive service in our reproductive medicine clinic at Guy’s Hospital where patients are seen by our team of specialists. You can also refer patients easily and directly to ACU by using our new referral form. We have no waiting lists for NHS or fee paying patients.

Please note all the fields on the form must be completed for us to process referrals efficiently without any unnecessary delays.

Our Services:
The ACU is located on the 11th floor at Guy's Hospital, with state-of-the-art facilities. We provide a comprehensive range of investigations and treatments for infertility including:

- Intrauterine Insemination (IUI)
- In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF)
- Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI)
- Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD)
- Fertility Preservation Treatment (FPT)
- Frozen Embryo Transfer (FET)
- Surrogacy
- Treatment using donor sperm and eggs
- Assisted hatching
- Surgical sperm retrieval for azoospermia
- Freezing and storage of embryos and sperm.

We offer a range of treatments suitable for all couples (including same-sex couples and single women).

To download our referral form click here.

For further information on how to refer your patients please visit our website or email your query to NewReferralsACU@gstt.nhs.uk and we will get back to you within two working days.

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**Children's Assessment and Referral Service (CARS) launch**

On 22 October, Evelina London is launching a new general paediatric referral support service – the Children's Assessment and Referral Service (CARS). The service will be delivered by a consultant general paediatrician from **Monday to Friday between 11am to 7pm** and will provide advice and triage to support GPs with the management of paediatric patients.

On 22 October, Evelina London is launching a new general paediatric referral support service – the Children's Assessment and Referral Service (CARS). The service will be delivered by a consultant general paediatrician from **Monday to Friday between 11am to 7pm** and will provide advice and triage to support GPs with the management of paediatric patients. The consultant on-call will be answering queries to potential outpatients or acute referrals, and give advice on the management of the patient in primary care.

As part of the CARS service, Evelina London will now provide a rapid access outpatient facility for children who would benefit from a prompt paediatric assessment, but who do not have an urgent clinical need which indicates they should attend A&E. Children referred through rapid access will be seen by a paediatrician on the same or next working day where possible. These rapid access slots can be accessed through the recommendation of the paediatrician operating the telephone hotline.

The CARS phone number which will go live on October 22 at 11am is: **07557 159092**

Email: general.paediatrics@nhs.net

For enquiries about the hotline launch, please contact Dr Claire Lemer (Project Clinical Lead) at Claire.lemer@gstt.nhs.uk or Ellie Meller (Project Manager) at elanor.meller@gstt.nhs.uk

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**Evelina London bringing care into the heart of our local community**

From 21 October, Evelina London will be running a pilot scheme with some of our general paediatric clinics taking place at the Mary Sheridan Centre for Child Health in Kennington instead of at Evelina London Children's Hospital. The trial is taking place to see if patients and families benefit from seeing the outpatients staff in a community setting.

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Evelina London is committed to making local services accessible and co-ordinated, to deliver more joined-up care. We look forward to hearing the views of patients, families and staff as part of the evaluation of the trial.
Changes to electronically requested Glandular Fever Screens from General Practice

'Opt-out' HIV tests are now included in the panel of tests performed by Viapath for electronically requested Glandular Fever Screens (GFS) from general practices, in patients aged over 16 years.

Why was this change introduced?

Lambeth and Southwark are at the centre of the UK HIV epidemic, accounting for 9% of diagnoses in England. The majority of HIV transmission however occurs before patients are diagnosed and this innovative initiative "the LIGHT project" aims to improve HIV diagnosis rates in early infection. This project made its first primary HIV diagnosis within three weeks of going live.

Who has made this change?

This important initiative forms part of the Lambeth and Southwark strategy for reducing undiagnosed HIV infection and has been implemented through a joint working initiative by Public Health, Clinical Virology at King’s Health Partners, local sexual health and HIV consultants and Gilead Sciences Ltd.

NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening Programme

The South East London AAA Screening Programme, hosted by Guy’s and St Thomas’, has been running for two years. In this time we have identified 169 small-medium sized AAAs and have referred 16 men with large AAAs for aneurysm repair. We would like GPs and their teams to promote awareness of this life-saving programme.

The South East London AAA Screening Programme, hosted by Guy’s and St Thomas’, has been running for two years. In this time we have identified 169 small-medium sized AAAs and have referred 16 men with large AAAs for aneurysm repair. We would like GPs and their teams to promote awareness of this life-saving programme.

How the programme works:

- The programme is a free NHS service for men aged 65+
- Men are automatically invited in the year they turn 65 but older men are welcome to self-refer by contacting the screening office (details below)
- An appointment will be offered at the nearest screening venue where an ultrasound scan will take place and the results will be given immediately to the patient
- If a small or medium AAA is found, the patient will be offered regular scans
- If a large AAA is found, the patient will be referred to the Guy’s and St Thomas’ vascular team for surgical assessment
- If the aorta is a normal size, the patient will be discharged from the service as they are unlikely to develop a large AAA
- A decision aid is available for men who are unsure about screening.

Risk Factors:

- Risk is increased by smoking, high blood pressure or through close family history.

AAAs are usually asymptomatic.

Contact us:
Please contact us if you would like posters or leaflets for your surgery.
We would love to get involved with any patient events or health promotion work
We are currently seeking additional venues in Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark - if you have a room spare two days a month, please get in touch.

Tel: 020 7188 0211
Email: gst-tr.AAAScreeningOffice@nhs.net
For more information please visit the website.

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**Acupuncture for phantom limb pain gets the go-ahead!**

An exciting joint study project with the Amputee Rehabilitation Unit (ARU), the Gateway acupuncture service and South Bank University is starting at Lambeth Community Care Centre, using acupuncture for amputees with post-surgery pain or phantom limb pain. Acupuncture treatments will be added to the amputees’ rehabilitation care while they are staying at the ARU, in order to control pain and phantom limb pain.

An exciting joint study project with the Amputee Rehabilitation Unit (ARU), the Gateway acupuncture service and South Bank University is starting at Lambeth Community Care Centre, using acupuncture for amputees with post-surgery pain or phantom limb pain. Acupuncture treatments will be added to the amputees’ rehabilitation care while they are staying at the ARU, in order to control pain and phantom limb pain.

The **ARU** is a new 12-bed unit bringing together evidence-based, post-operative amputee care. It provides specialist rehabilitation for people who have undergone major amputation.

The **Gateway clinic**, a specialist acupuncture service, has been running for 25 years. It offers treatment for patients with chronic long-term conditions, specialising in chronic pain (musculoskeletal and neurological), headaches/migraines and HIV patients.

A recent audit completed by Gateway clinic analysing the clinical outcomes of 500 patients with long-term conditions found acupuncture significantly improved patients’ main symptoms, increased their ability to achieve regular activity and reduced use of pain medication. A systematic review carried out by London South Bank University evaluated the clinical effectiveness of acupuncture for the treatment of Phantom Limb Syndrome (PLS). The data suggests that acupuncture should be a beneficial intervention for amputees with PLS.

The ARU and Gateway Clinic are in the unique position of being in the same building. This situation provides a unique opportunity to integrate services to provide additional care for patients in the ARU. No other Trust has integrated traditional acupuncture into routine care with patients with phantom limb pain. It will be a novel approach to an existing unit providing a holistic approach to patient care. Acupuncture may help decrease pain, reduce the need for pain medication, speed up the rehabilitation process, improve throughput of patients, and quality of life of amputees.

For further information on how to refer to our acupuncture services please visit our website.

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**LEGO therapy helps children with autism in Lambeth and Southwark**

Children and young people's community speech and language therapists at Guy's and St Thomas' use LEGO to help children with autism to overcome communication problems so they can learn new skills and socialise more easily.

Children and young people's community speech and language therapists at Guy's and St Thomas’ use LEGO to help children with autism to overcome communication problems so they can learn new skills and socialise more easily.

Children with autism can find it difficult to learn skills such as turn taking, listening and asking for information...
because they often find speaking, listening, and making friends a challenge. Using LEGO is a great way to get them working in a group as they like following sequences.

Therapists at Guy’s and St Thomas’ use LEGO to help children with speech and language problems in schools. The technique is also used to help other children with communication problems to improve the way they express themselves, listen and follow instructions together.

Some children who find speaking difficult will use cards with symbols on to give instructions like ‘put red brick on top’ or ‘find yellow rectangle’. This helps them get their message across without talking.

Nicola Spray, a speech and language therapist, says "It’s wonderful to see children who prefer to play alone coming together to work as a team. They might build a simple tower or something more elaborate like a colourful watermelon."

The team provides specialist advice, assessment and intervention for children and young people (0-19 years) who have difficulties with any aspect of their communication:

- Speech sounds
- Talking
- Attention and listening
- Understanding
- Interacting.

They also work with babies and children who have eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties.

**How to make a referral:**

The service has an open referral system. This means that anyone can refer, including the patients themselves.

**Lambeth**

Please fill out the speech and language therapy referral form and email it to gst-tr.referralschildrencustomerservice@nhs.net

Alternatively by letter to:

Mary Sheridan Centre for Child Health
Wooden Spoon House
5 Dugard Way
Off Renfrew Road
London SE11 4TH

Tel: 020 3049 5976
Fax: 020 3049 4015

**Southwark**

Referrals must be made on a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) form and emailed to gst-tr.SunshineHouseReferrals@nhs.net

Alternatively, by letter to:

Sunshine House
27 Peckham Road
London SE5 8UH

Tel: 020 3049 8097
Fax: 020 3049 8145

The service offers also training courses to parents and any professionals working with children and young people in Lambeth and Southwark. For further details, please see our training brochure.

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**Patients rate cancer care**

90% of cancer patients at Guy’s and St Thomas’ rate their care as excellent or
very good – higher than the national average.

90% of cancer patients at Guy's and St Thomas’ rate their care as excellent or very good – higher than the national average.

The national cancer patient experience survey, published at the end of September, reports the views of thousands of NHS cancer patients in England.

Guy’s and St Thomas’ is in the top 20% of NHS trusts for five areas of cancer care but we recognise that we have a number of areas for improvement.

Mairead Griffin, Deputy Chief Nurse for Cancer, says: “I am delighted that the vast majority of cancer patients who we treat are happy with the quality of care that our doctors, nurses and other staff provide.”

A new £160 million Cancer Centre at Guy’s will bring together most cancer treatment under one roof when it opens in 2016 to improve the continuity of care for patients.

To find out more visit our website.

New Cancer Centre at Queen Mary’s Hospital in Sidcup

Cancer patients living in Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich will be able to have most of their radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatment locally thanks to the development of a new Cancer Centre at Queen Mary’s Hospital in Sidcup.

Cancer patients living in Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich will be able to have most of their radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatment locally thanks to the development of a new Cancer Centre at Queen Mary’s Hospital in Sidcup.

Currently many of these patients have to travel to Guy’s and St Thomas’ for radiotherapy but that will change when the brand new facility opens in 2016.

The Queen Mary’s Hospital site is being given a £30 million revamp by Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust. Guy’s and St Thomas’ staff will provide services in the new Cancer Centre with two new linear accelerators for radiotherapy. The building will also include an information and advice service for patients and their families.

Angela Francis, Head of Radiotherapy Services at Guy’s and St Thomas’, says: “We have worked with NHS organisations and patient representatives in outer south east London over a number of years to bring radiotherapy nearer to where patients live.

“It is fantastic that work has now begun on the new Cancer Centre in Sidcup. Many patients will benefit from having both chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment closer to home and under one roof in a purpose-built facility.”

Guy’s and St Thomas’ will also run a new Kidney Treatment Centre on the Queen Mary’s Hospital site. This facility will also open to patients in 2016.

Revamped PET Centre opens

The newly refurbished PET Centre at St Thomas’ Hospital was officially opened on Friday 26 September. Its state-of-the-art imaging technology will improve the diagnosis and treatment of diseases such as cancer, epilepsy and dementia.

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Its state-of-the-art imaging technology will improve the diagnosis and treatment of diseases such as cancer, epilepsy and dementia.

“The centre will help us treat patients faster and more accurately by improving diagnosis,” says Professor Alexander Hammers, Head of the PET Centre.

For further information visit our website.
GP access to easy read patient information leaflets

*GPs and community healthcare professionals can now access a range of printable easy read patient information leaflets via Guy's and St Thomas’ website. In addition, we have developed an easy read hub on our website, offering simplified instructions for patients on how to access our hospital services.*

GPs and community healthcare professionals can now access a range of printable easy read patient information leaflets via Guy's and St Thomas’ website. In addition, we have developed an easy read hub on our website, offering simplified instructions for patients on how to access our hospital services.

Launched in 2013, our easy read resources aim to assist patients with learning disabilities and other communication difficulties to understand and participate in their treatment and care. Covering a range of health matters, such as radiotherapy treatment, hand hygiene and community health services, these materials combine simple, direct sentences with clear, colourful, and self-explanatory images to assist effective communication and informed consent.

We want to make GPs and colleagues working in primary care and community services aware of these resources so that they can use them to support patients and carers where appropriate.

We also hope GPs will promote the use of the Hospital Passport, which patients can carry with them to their hospital, GP and community appointments to ensure consistent care across sites. The Hospital Passport gives a snapshot of known conditions, behaviours and preferences, and helps patients with communication difficulties express themselves more effectively.

The full list of easy read titles can be accessed [here](#).

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**Training and events**

**Free gynaecology and assisted reproduction update for GPs at Guy’s Hospital**

*Women's services at Guy’s and St Thomas’ would like to invite all GPs to a free evening workshop on Wednesday 26 November.*

Women's services at Guy's and St Thomas' would like to invite all GPs to a free evening workshop on Wednesday 26 November.

Topics include:

- Fertility assessment and treatment according to new NICE guidelines the referral process and eligibility for funding.

Cost: free  
Date: Wednesday 26 November  7-9pm  
Venue : Robens Suite, Floor 29 Tower Wing, Guy’s Hospital, Great Maze Pond, London, SE1 9RT  
There will be clinical case discussions and attendance certificates provided on the day. This evening event carries two CPD points.  
To book a place or request further information please email: Beverley.Payne@gstt.nhs.uk

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**Training and events**

**Free sexual health promotion training for your team**
The Sexual Health Promotion Team at Guy's and St Thomas' offers free training to clinical and non-clinical staff to deliver sexual health promotion. The attached brochure covers our training courses for 2014-15.

Training courses available are the following:

- How to promote good sexual health
- Cultural Competency in sexual health
- Training skills in sexual health (2 day training course)
- Working with Men who have Sex with Men (MSM): equality and inclusiveness in service provision
- Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) and substance use
- Introduction to HIV
- Advanced HIV
- Young People Sex & the Law

If you would like to attend any of our courses please email your interest to: sexualhealthpromotion@gstt.nhs.uk

Places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

For course dates please see the attached brochure.

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Integrated Cancer Centre - How do we work more closely together?

The Integrated Cancer Centre is pleased to invite you to a GP evening event on Tuesday 14 October 2014. This will be a great opportunity to meet some of our consultant oncologists and other staff and discuss how we can work more closely together.

Dr Cathy Burton, Macmillan GP Adviser, GP Cancer Clinical Lead, Lambeth CCG and Transforming Cancer Services Team together with Connie Green will present on ‘What is really important to cancer patients, their carers and primary care practitioners?’

Dr Doug Robertson, Consultant Diabetologist and Clinical Champion for Prevention, will be joining us from Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust to discuss ‘Why and how hospitals can contribute to large improvements in the health of their communities?’

Arnie Purushotham, Director of King’s Health Partners Integrated Cancer Centre, will host the event and speak on ‘How can we radically improve cancer mortality in the next 10 years?’

The evening offers plenty of opportunities to network and socialise, food and drinks will be provided.

Date: Tuesday 14 October 2014
Time: 7.00pm to 9.15pm
Venue: Robens Suite, Guy’s Hospital, Great Maze Pond, London SE1 9RT.

To download the full agenda click here.

Please email Martina Bohn, Communications Manager for King’s Health Partners Integrated Cancer Centre at martina.bohn@gstt.nhs.uk to register your attendance.

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Admission Avoidance

Admission Avoidance is a new inter-professional, two-day course for healthcare
Admission Avoidance is an inter-professional, two-day course for healthcare practitioners working in primary and community care services. It offers the chance to practise, in a safe environment, the real-life skills needed to communicate and care for potential deteriorating residents in a residential care setting.

This programme combines the use of low and high fidelity simulation techniques and medical actors to explore how to safely care for residents avoiding unnecessary hospital admissions. Topics will include:

- ‘Hands-on’ experience using ageing suits.
- Workshops and high-fidelity simulations based on typical clinical scenarios in the residential care home setting.
- Performing a structured approach to the unwell resident.
- Exploring communication with residents, relatives and professionals.
- Understanding aspects of admission avoidance & special circumstances around transfer.

Dates:
- 15 and 16 October 2014
- 21 and 24 November 2014
- 17 and 18 December 2014
- 5 and 6 January 2015
- 24 and 25 February 2015

Venue:
The Simulation and Interactive Learning (SaIL) Centre
1st Floor, St Thomas’ House
Westminster Bridge Road
London SE1 7EH

Cost free

For further details and an application form please email: simulation@gstt.nhs.uk
Tel: 0207188 7188 ext 52065

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**Annual Memorial Service at Southwark Cathedral**

_The Palliative Care team would like to extend a warm invitation to all GPs and primary care professionals in Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham to attend their Annual Memorial Service at Southwark Cathedral, Montague Close, London, SE1 9DA on Friday 17 October at 7pm. The service is expected to last approximately an hour._

The Palliative Care team would like to extend a warm invitation to all GPs and primary care professionals in Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham to attend their Annual Memorial Service at Southwark Cathedral, Montague Close, London, SE1 9DA on Friday 17 October at 7pm. The service is expected to last approximately an hour.

For further information, contact Nicky Tredinnick (Specialist Palliative Care Social Worker) at Nicola.Tredinnick@gstt.nhs.uk

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**Clinical Update: Sleep**

_Modern lifestyle has resulted in a significant increase in patients reporting_
symptoms of hypersomnia and insomnia.

Modern lifestyle has resulted in a significant increase in patients reporting symptoms of hypersomnia and insomnia.

This update, aimed at clinicians and allied health professionals with an interest in sleep medicine, will review the latest evidence for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with sleep disorders, including obstructive sleep apnoea.

The topics will be grouped according to the symptomatic presentation of patients with hypersomnia, parasomnia and insomnia. The latest advances in the understanding and management of sleep disorders will be further highlighted in an opening keynote lecture, and a hot topic session at the end of the conference focuses on multi-disciplinary healthcare delivery.

Date: 24 October; 8:15am to 5pm
Venue: Robens Suite, Guy`s Hospital

For costs and bookings please visit our website

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**EB awareness event**

As part of International Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB) Awareness Week, staff from our EB multi-disciplinary team are holding an event in Central Hall at St Thomas` from 10am to 2pm on Wednesday 29 October.

EB is a group of inherited fragile skin disorders – patients suffer painful blistering to their skin. There is no known cure but treatment can minimise pain and reduce the risk of infection.

St Thomas` is one of two centres in the UK that support adult patients with this rare and often devastating condition. It is also the busiest centre in the world and renowned internationally for its care of people with EB and its research.

Staff will be joined at the event on 29 October by colleagues from DEBRA, the charity which supports people with EB. Primary care clinicians, patients and their families are all welcome.

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**SAGE & THYME Training Programme**

Psychological distress is common among patients, their families and their carers. Effective communication is widely regarded as being a key factor in determining a patient’s satisfaction, compliance with treatment and recovery.

Psychological distress is common among patients, their families and their carers. Effective communication is widely regarded as being a key factor in determining a patient's satisfaction, compliance with treatment and recovery.

The SAGE & THYME training was developed to teach the core skills of dealing with people in distress.

This free course helps healthcare professionals to:

- Recognise psychological distress
- Empower patient and carers who are worried or distressed
- Avoid causing psychological harm
- Communicate honestly and compassionately
- Know when they have reached the boundary of their competence.
For further information about dates and venues click here.

To book a place email: Eileen.Mcnamara@gstt.nhs.uk or phone 020 7188 7549

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**Delirium and Dementia**

*This programme combines the use of low and high fidelity simulation techniques and medical actors to explore how to safely care for and assess patients with delirium in the home and ward setting.*

This one day course combines the use of low and high fidelity simulation techniques and medical actors to explore how to safely care for and assess patients with delirium in the home and ward setting. Topics covered will include:

- Assessment and structured communication
- Considerations in MDT and discharge planning
- Special circumstances around Delirium and Dementia

**Dates:**

1. 14 November 2014
2. 1 December 2014
3. 8 December 2014
4. 9 February 2015

**Time:** 8:30am - 4:45pm

**Venue:** SaIL centre, Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospital
1st Floor, St Thomas’ House
Westminster Bridge Road
London SE1 7EH

**Cost:** free

For further details and an application form please email: simulation@gstt.nhs.uk

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**GP Update: hot topics in clinical practice**

*Top tips and the latest information from clinical experts to enhance your CPD.*

Top tips and the latest information from clinical experts to enhance your CPD.

Agenda of the day include:

- Paediatrics: allergy; obesity; sleep disorders and funny turns
- Genital dermatology; older people skin and urticaria
- ‘The Dizzy Patient”; head and neck lumps
- New drugs in Type II Diabetes; lipid modification
- Musculoskeletal medicine & inflammatory arthritis
- Infertility; teenage gang violence; freedom from torture
- Resuscitation, Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and anaphylaxis training & certificate

**Dates:** 24–28 November

**Venues:** Sherman Education Centre, Guy’s Hospital on 24, 25, and 27 November; King’s College London, (Guy’s Campus), Hodgkin Building, near Guys Hospital- on 26 and 28 November.

**Cost:** £495 (£275 for GP trainees, Nurses & AHPs)
Transforming end of life care

This two day course for GPs, nurses and allied health professionals is organised by Guy’s and St Thomas’ palliative care team.

This free two-day course for GPs, nurses and allied health professionals is organised by Guy’s and St Thomas’ palliative care team.

Topics include:

- Pain and symptom management
- Advance care planning
- Do not attempt cardio-pulmonary resuscitation- decisions and discussions
- The last days of life
- Syringe driver training;
- A death in the family – how families grieve
- Hospital and community interface – minding the gap.

Training dates for 2014 are:

- 8 and 9 December

Venue: Sherman Lecture Theatre, Guy’s Hospital
Cost Free

For more information and to book a place, please contact Eileen McNamara at Eileen.McNamara@gstt.nhs.uk or phone 0207 188 7549
Breast cancer surgery world first

A world-first clinical trial to test new imaging technology that can scan tumours during breast cancer surgery has been launched at Guy’s Hospital in collaboration with King’s College London.

Two imaging devices are being tested to see if they will help surgeons remove breast tumours and cancerous lymph nodes without unnecessarily cutting out healthy tissue.

“We hope this is a major development in cancer surgery – we’re taking two steps forward, not just one,” says Professor Arnie Purushotham, Consultant Breast Surgeon at Guy’s and St Thomas’, who is leading the study.

“It should greatly improve surgical accuracy, which is desperately needed because around a quarter of breast cancer patients who have a lump removed need a second operation to remove cancer cells missed in the first surgery.

“Another exciting step is that we will also be scanning lymph nodes, which are often removed during breast cancer surgery. If we can tell on-the-spot which lymph nodes can be safely left, it will improve survivors’ quality of life by reducing the chance of them developing lymphoedema. The number of breast cancer survivors is expected to rise significantly in the next decade, so this is hugely important.”

After a breast tumour is removed, it is tested to check that all the cancer cells have been successfully extracted. If any are found close to the surface of the tissue that has been cut out, the patient has to have a second operation to remove more tissue. The test results can take up to a week to come back, which means patients have an anxious wait before being given the ‘all clear’ or being told they need more surgery.

In the UK 50,000 women, and a small number of men, are diagnosed with breast cancer every year – approximately 65% will survive for 20 years or more.

There are many potential benefits for both patients and the NHS. If the clinical trial works as expected, patients will have peace of mind that their cancer surgery is likely to be successful first time around and the next stage of their cancer treatment, chemotherapy or radiotherapy, won’t be delayed.

It will also free up NHS theatres to treat more patients so waiting lists should be reduced. The imaging technology has good potential to be extended to surgery for other cancers.

The two new devices being trialled are based on Cerenkov Luminescence Imaging. The red area in the image shows where tumour cells are on the surface of the removed tissue.

The two-year study is a collaboration between Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, King’s College London and Lightpoint Medical, a medical device company specialising in molecular imaging technology for image-guided surgery. It is funded by two grants from the Technology Strategy Board, the UK’s innovation agency. To find out more please visit Guy’s and St Thomas’ website.