

Statement from Worcestershire LMC

on the Transfer of Work

- The LMC recognise that all sectors of health care are under pressure in their response to the COVID pandemic.
- We acknowledge that all sectors have had to radically change their working practices to be able to provide safe and effective services to those most in need and in order to protect both patients and staff.
- Inevitably this has led to a reduction in capacity and resulted in significant backlogs of care.
- It must be an over-riding principle that changes in working practices in one sector do not have an adverse consequence for other sectors of health care. We must work in partnership to protect each other's services.
- There is a risk that radical changes to working practices and care pathways will result in confusion and patients falling through gaps between services. Clinical governance and clinical responsibility may become unclear and this can result in adverse consequences for patients.
- We believe that:
 - There should be no change in clinical responsibility for patient care without agreement between sectors
 - Monitoring of a patient's condition remains the responsibility of the clinician in charge of their care in line with existing care pathways, whether written and agreed or implied by custom and practice.
 - Any changes to a care pathway must be agreed, recorded and widely communicated to all clinicians affected by the change.
- As we enter into the restoration phase and different ways of working emerge and evolve, this must encompass joint planning between all sectors that leads to benefits in patient care and supports the efficient and effective delivery of care by all sectors.