

Core brief

Friday, 16 November 2018

Introduction

This issue brings you information about the temporary closure of the Cowlairs decontamination unit.

Cowlairs decontamination unit

Following an inspection by our independent quality assurance advisers, Cowlairs decontamination unit has been temporarily closed.

The inspection highlighted a number of issues with the fabric of the facility.

We would like to reassure colleagues that these issues did not directly relate to the unit's processes for sterilising equipment; surgical site infection rates are closely and routinely monitored and there has been no change to normal low background levels.

The unit, which supplies Glasgow hospitals, has been closed to allow remedial work to be carried out.

Our overriding priority is our patients and we are making every effort to maintain normal services.

Clyde hospitals are supplied separately from a unit in Inverclyde Royal Hospital. This unit remains operational.

Every effort is being made to ensure that there is capacity using our unit at Inverclyde and working with neighbouring NHS boards to deliver instruments for the programme of elective and emergency surgery over the days ahead.

The majority of surgery is progressing as planned. Unfortunately however we have had to notify a very small number of patients today that their operation has had to be rescheduled and arrangements are being made for these patients to be admitted as soon as possible.

It is our intention to have the facility back in operation as soon as possible and Health Facilities Scotland's decontamination team are supporting us in this.

Are your contact details up-to-date? [Click here](#) to check