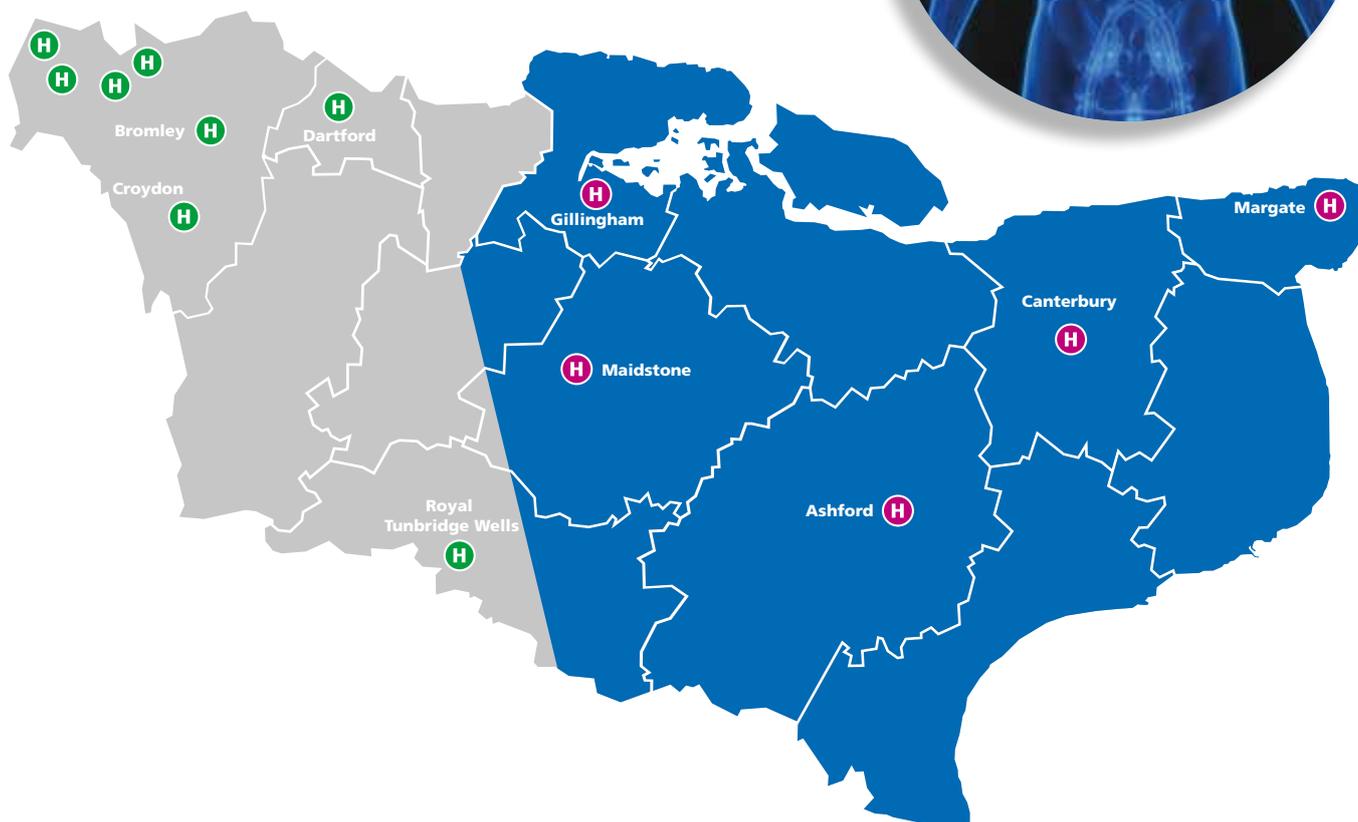


Improving vascular services across east Kent, Medway and Maidstone

A consultation by NHS England and NHS Improvement Specialised Commissioning together with NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)



Our ambition is to create a vascular centre of excellence for Kent and Medway that:

- **Ensures the best outcomes and chances of survival for patients based on best practice agreed by experts**
- **Ensures we have more specialists available 24/7 with the right specialist skills, equipment and infrastructure**
- **Meets national standards for vascular surgery**

To achieve this, we need to change the way services are provided. We recommend doctors, nurses and other professionals from each of the hospitals providing vascular services should work together as one team across east Kent, Medway and Maidstone.

The majority of care, such as clinics and investigations will be at the patient's nearest hospital. However, specialist surgery requiring a hospital stay will be provided at one specialist centre rather than two. Currently neither of the Kent and Medway vascular centres (located at Kent and Canterbury and Medway Maritime hospitals) can fully meet the requirements set out above to become a centre of excellence. We urgently need to make changes to ensure services meet the required standards. For example, last year we made an emergency move of some vascular surgical services from Medway Maritime Hospital in Gillingham to Kent and Canterbury Hospital for patient safety reasons.

Our preferred option is for a medium-term vascular inpatient centre to be created at Kent and Canterbury Hospital in Canterbury where all vascular surgery requiring a stay in hospital would be provided. Outpatient clinics and diagnostic investigations would be provided at William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Medway Maritime Hospital in Gillingham, Maidstone Hospital and Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital in Margate. Day surgery and

rehabilitation would also be provided at Medway Maritime Hospital and Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

In this document we explain our proposals for vascular services in Kent and Medway for the medium-term. We want to hear what you think so we can consider your views and experiences and make sure that vascular services work well for patients. Please take part in the consultation, which runs until 15 March 2022, by attending one of our events and completing the survey.



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What are vascular services?

Every year around 1,200 treatments are undertaken by specialist vascular teams in two Kent and Medway vascular centres.

This involves unblocking, bypassing or reconstructing arteries (blood vessels) to restore blood flow to parts of the body mainly to reduce the risk of sudden death, prevent a stroke or reduce the risk of amputation. Vascular services also provide support to patients with other problems such as kidney disease.

Patients who receive vascular services may have:

- had a stroke or mini stroke and are at risk of having further strokes
- blocked arteries in the legs causing pain which may deteriorate and threaten the leg
- a bulge in the wall of the body's main artery which needs repair to prevent it bursting
- untreated or untreatable blocked arteries which means they need an amputation.

Due to changes in lifestyle and thanks to changes in the way we provide services, fewer people need major surgery than in the past. This is because:

- fewer of us are smokers (80 per cent of vascular patients are current or ex-smokers)
- a screening programme for men detects damage to artery walls known as an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) so that a repair can be made. The programme has reduced the number of deaths from AAA by 50 per cent
- great strides have been made in the development of less invasive treatments (using x-ray type, CT and MRI guided images) to navigate a tiny tube or scaffold known as a stent into place to repair a damaged artery (known as an endovascular aneurysm repair or EVAR).

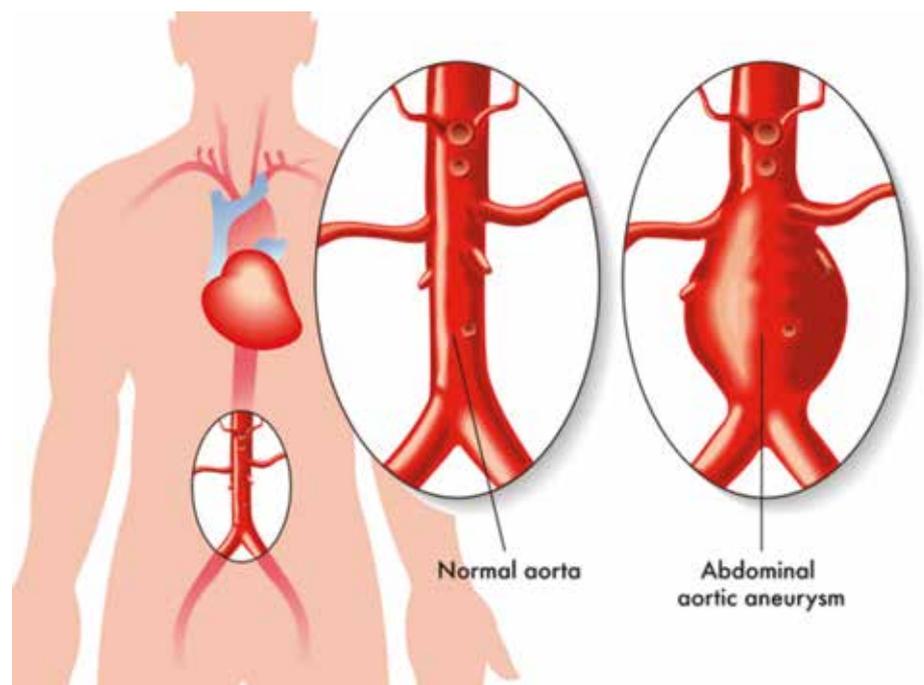
This means not everyone cared for by our vascular teams will need a complex operation. But the nature of vascular disease means that patients need to be assessed and cared for at a hospital with a vascular centre as diagnosing vascular disease early is key to successful treatment.

Vascular treatment

- **Specialist vascular surgery** – bypass surgery, repairing blocked arteries and treating blood clots in limbs
- **Interventional radiology** – less invasive treatment using X-Ray, CT, MRI and ultrasound

Vascular conditions

- **Abdominal aortic aneurysm** – a bulge in the artery wall that can rupture
- **Carotid artery disease** – which can lead to a stroke
- **Blocked arteries** – which can put limbs at risk



Not every local hospital has a vascular centre. These services should be delivered by specialist doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals with the necessary skills and equipment, and with expertise gained by seeing lots of patients with vascular disease. Most healthcare is planned and arranged locally by NHS clinical commissioning groups (CCGs). Specialised services are planned nationally and regionally by NHS England and NHS Improvement.

Vascular health

Common vascular problems are caused by a slow and gradual thickening of the arteries, sometimes referred to as “furring up”; “hardening” or “clogging” up of the arteries. Arteries can also become less flexible and less able to withstand the pressure of the pulse generated by the heart. They can slowly stretch, like a worn out tyre / inner tube resulting in an aneurysm (dilated artery).

There are several things we can do to keep our arteries healthy:

- **Healthy eating**
- **Regular exercise**
- **Maintaining a healthy weight**
- **Keeping alcohol consumption within national guidelines**
- **Not smoking**

There are some conditions which create a higher risk of vascular disease including diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. These should be monitored and treated by your doctor but are also influenced by lifestyle so following the above measures can also assist. You can find out more information from:

- The Vascular Society promotes vascular health and furthers education for health professionals: www.vascularsociety.org.uk/patients/vascular_health/lifestyle.aspx
- The Circulation Foundation which is the UK Vascular Disease charity has a risk checker: www.circulationfoundation.org.uk/
- The NHS website: www.nhs.uk/

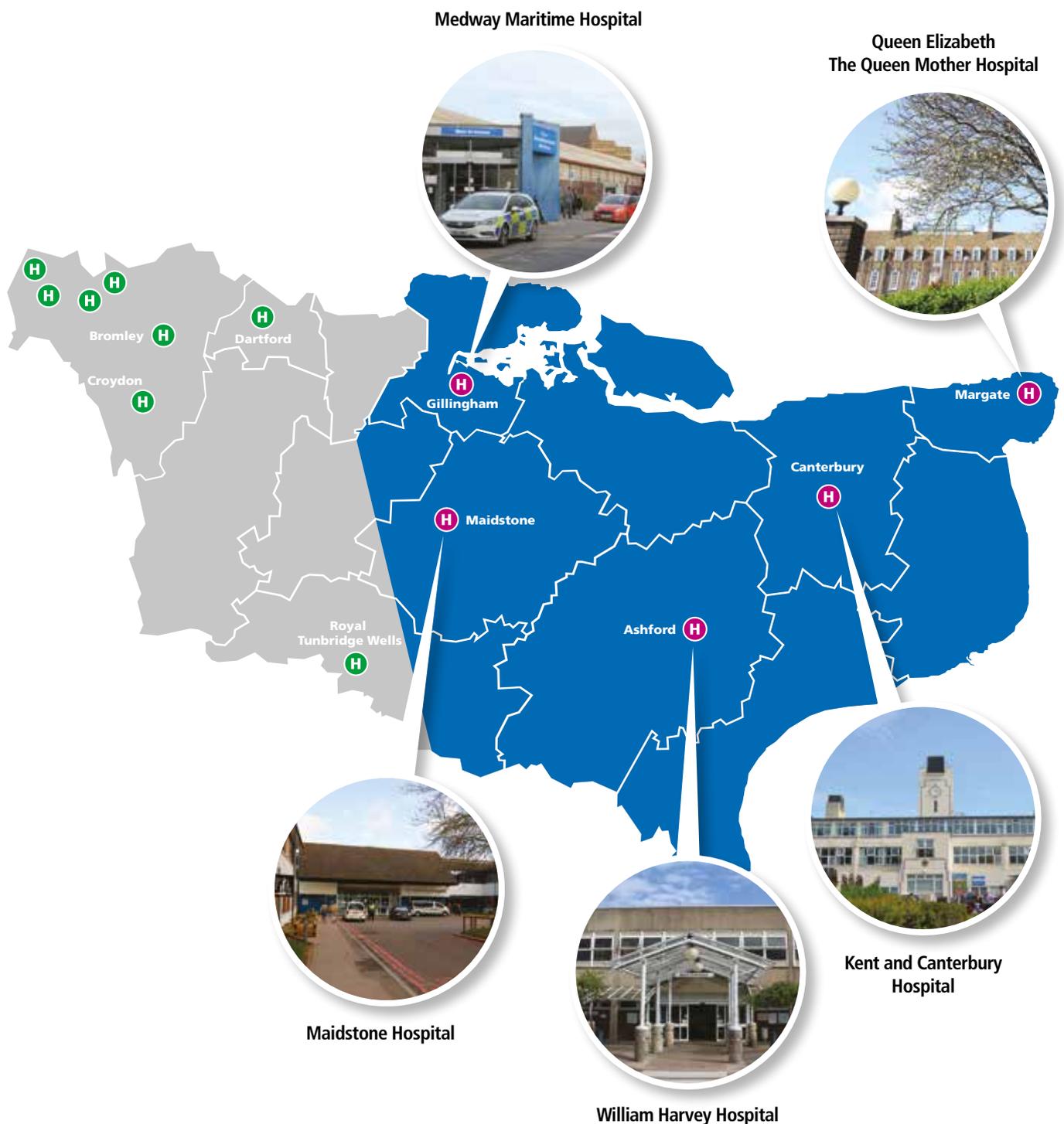


What happens now?

Vascular surgery for Kent and Medway is provided at specialist inpatient centres – two of which are in Kent and Medway and one is in London at Guy’s and St. Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust.

The proposed changes will affect the two Kent and Medway vascular centres at Kent and Canterbury Hospital which is part of East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust and at Medway Maritime Hospital which is part of the Medway NHS Foundation Trust.

Medway Maritime Hospital provides inpatient vascular services for Medway and for patients in west Kent whose local hospital is Maidstone Hospital.



Kent and Canterbury Hospital provides inpatient vascular services for patients from East Kent. It also provides abdominal aortic aneurysm screening (AAA) which detects abnormalities in the body's main artery for East Kent, Medway and the Maidstone Hospital catchment.

Vascular patients are also seen at other hospitals in Kent for outpatient appointments and diagnostic tests.

Across east Kent, Medway and the Maidstone catchment of west Kent, about 700 patients have inpatient vascular treatment each year at the two vascular centres.

The London vascular centre currently provides treatment for patients from Tunbridge Wells Hospital and North Kent and will continue to do so. There are no proposed changes for these patients.



Maidstone Hospital, Maidstone, ME16 9QQ	William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, Kent TN24 0LZ	Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital, Margate, CT9 4AN	Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury Inpatient Vascular Centre, Canterbury CT1 3NG	Medway Maritime Hospital, Medway Inpatient Vascular Centre, Gillingham, ME7 5NY
<p>Patients seen in outpatient clinics</p> <p>Diagnostic tests</p> <p>Major complex surgery provided at Medway Hospital</p>	<p>Patients seen in outpatient clinics</p> <p>Diagnostic tests</p> <p>Major complex surgery provided at Kent and Canterbury Hospital</p>	<p>Patients seen in outpatient clinics</p> <p>Diagnostic tests</p> <p>Major complex surgery provided at Kent and Canterbury Hospital</p>	<p>AAA screening</p> <p>Full range of services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients seen in outpatient clinics • Diagnostic tests • Inpatient care and rehabilitation • Day surgery and inpatient operating including: • Surgery to remove plaque from the main artery in the neck and to improve blood flow to the brain • Surgery to bypass a blocked artery and improve blood flow • Interventional radiology – minimally invasive medical treatments to insert stents and balloons into blood vessels using X-rays, ultrasound and other types of imaging • Non urgent and emergency AAA repair • Renal access surgery for patients requiring dialysis 	<p>Patients seen in outpatient clinics</p> <p>Diagnostic tests Inpatient care and rehabilitation</p> <p>Day surgery and some inpatient surgery including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgery to remove plaque from the main artery in the neck and to improve blood flow to the brain • Surgery to bypass a blocked artery and improve blood flow • Interventional radiology – minimally invasive medical treatments to insert stents and balloons into blood vessels using x-rays, ultrasound and other types of imaging • Since January 2020 planned and emergency AAA surgery provided at Kent and Canterbury Hospital

Why do services need to change?

The traditional way vascular services are provided is changing. Screening, prevention and improvements in technology mean that fewer patients who need vascular care need emergency life-saving surgery for an abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA).

There is strong evidence that patients who need vascular treatment receive better quality of care and have a better chance of survival when they are treated and cared for by specialists (including vascular surgeons, interventional radiologists, nurses and therapists) who see a large number of these patients. This helps specialists to develop and maintain expertise in their field of work. This view is supported by The Vascular Society for Great Britain and Ireland and our own local clinicians.

National standards say that a minimum catchment population of 800,000 will ensure doctors treat enough different types of vascular cases to remain expert in their field. The vascular service provided by East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (east Kent) serves a population of 720,000. Medway NHS Foundation Trust (Medway) serves a population of 420,000. This means neither service is currently able to meet the minimum catchment standards.



The national standards also say there should be 24 hour access to specialist care, and this needs staffing that includes at least six full time vascular surgeons, six full time interventional radiologists and specialist nurses. Currently there are six full time surgeons at east Kent and three full time and two part time vascular surgeons at Medway. There is one part time and two full time interventional radiologists at east Kent (two more are being recruited). There are four part time interventional radiologists at Medway.

Across the country there is only a small pool of the specialist surgeons and interventional radiologists available. Their first choice will be to work at a centre where there are enough different types of vascular cases to remain expert in their field. Because both east Kent and Medway do not meet the minimum catchment population they have also had difficulty in recruiting enough staff to meet the staffing standard.

There have been times when these two trusts have had to operate shared arrangements to ensure emergency vascular patients could be seen 24/7. In January 2020, all planned and emergency major Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) surgery temporarily moved from Medway Maritime Hospital to Kent and Canterbury Hospital to ensure the service could remain safe and sustainable. No AAA surgery currently takes place at Medway Maritime Hospital.

We are now proposing for the medium-term that all inpatient vascular surgery for east Kent, Medway and Maidstone moves to Kent and Canterbury Hospital to create a single inpatient vascular centre supported by the other four hospitals as part of a network. This means the service would be able to meet the national standards with a combined catchment of 1.1m people. The network would be in line with best practice identified by the NHS's national Get It Right First Time programme. This would also help in making the centre more attractive to potential recruits to the service.

The main change would mean that patients who would have had inpatient surgery at Medway Maritime Hospital would now receive their surgery



at Kent and Canterbury Hospital, other services at the hospital would continue. There would be no change to services at William Harvey Hospital, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital or Maidstone Hospital where patients would continue to receive diagnostic tests and be seen at outpatient clinics. The final location of the vascular centre will be decided following a separate, future public consultation by Kent and Medway CCG on wider plans to transform health and care services in east Kent.

The change would also mean vascular hospital staff would work across multiple hospitals as one team. This would involve all 24/7 inpatient care at the inpatient vascular centre in Canterbury, care at the enhanced network hospital at Medway and care at all other hospitals in the network where diagnostic testing, outpatient treatment and some day case surgery would take place.

“The best chance of survival, from a ruptured aortic aneurysm, is to be treated in a high volume specialist centre by a team of experts even if that means bypassing your local hospital.”

Paul Blair, past President of the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland



What we have already considered when thinking about future services

NHS England and NHS Improvement has considered the options for the future of vascular services across east Kent, Medway and the Maidstone catchment of west Kent and has worked with clinicians and the public to agree what is most important when planning the future of vascular services.

These are:

- the ability for hospitals to meet NHS standards of best practice
- ensuring the service has a stable workforce, with sufficient specialised vascular surgeons and interventional radiologists
- ensuring doctors see enough patients and carry out sufficient numbers of procedures to maintain their skills. The standard says that the service should cover a minimum catchment population of 800,000 to ensure doctors get to see enough different types of cases

- simplicity of process for South East Coast Ambulance Service when transporting vascular patients to hospital out of hours in an emergency
- impact on patients and visitors travelling to the vascular centre by private car or public transport
- ease of implementing planned changes including both the cost and how quickly any change can happen (due to the significance of the current vascular workforce pressures, there is a need to act swiftly).

The following options were considered by clinicians together with patients and the public during extensive public and patient engagement and then discounted because they did not meet what was considered important for the future of vascular services.

This left one remaining a option known as **One Kent and Medway vascular centre with London pathway**.

Option	Reason for discounting this option
No change to the way services are provided	This would mean services did not meet national standards of best practice
No centre in Kent and Medway. All patients travel to London for surgery	London is too far away from parts of Kent and Medway to meet national standards for patients who need to be treated in an emergency
Two Kent and Medway vascular centres. No patients treated in London except for highly specialised treatments	London had to be retained to provide highly specialised procedures and is closer for patients in the north and west of Kent
One Kent and Medway vascular centre. No patients treated in London	This would meet national standards but for some patients in the north and west of Kent treatment in London would be closer
Two Kent and Medway vascular centres working together to provide 24/7 cover. No patients treated in London	Two centres would now have enough patients to meet national standards but for some patients in the north and west of Kent treatment in London would be closer
Two Kent and Medway vascular centres working together to provide 24/7 cover. Patients from north and west Kent treated in London	This would mean services would not meet national standards of best practice and would potentially mean at times no consultant cover for patients after surgery

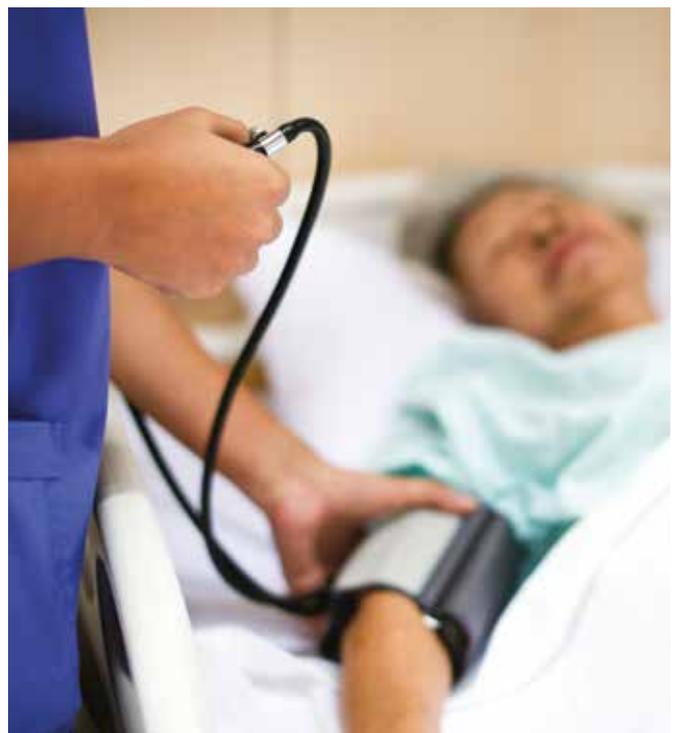


Under this option there is no proposed change for patients from north Kent whose local hospitals are in Dartford and Gravesham or for patients whose local hospital is Tunbridge Wells Hospital. These patients will continue to have vascular treatment in London.

For patients who would continue to have treatment in Kent and Medway this option would mean a single inpatient vascular centre could be located in either Medway or in east Kent.

Following further engagement with patients and the public at each stage of the review, and based on detailed consideration by clinical experts, NHS England and NHS Improvement together with Kent and Medway CCG recommended that the inpatient vascular centre should be located at one of the east Kent hospitals. There would also be an enhanced vascular service at Medway Maritime Hospital to include patient rehabilitation.

A further review in 2018 acknowledged that the future permanent location of the inpatient vascular centre would be decided through future consultation by Kent and Medway CCG about the future of health and care in east Kent. However, as it is likely to take several years to make the changes, NHS England and NHS Improvement together with Kent and Medway CCG has recommended that for the medium term an inpatient vascular centre should be located at Kent and Canterbury Hospital.



This decision was reviewed in September 2021 by a panel of experts who confirmed Kent and Canterbury Hospital remains the most suitable option for the medium-term.

The key reasons for this recommendation are:

- there is an urgent need to ensure the vascular service is meeting national standards
- almost twice as many vascular procedures take place at Kent and Canterbury Hospital compared with Medway Maritime Hospital. In a full year there will be a total of 740 inpatient procedures undertaken at Kent and Canterbury Hospital compared with 409 at Medway Maritime Hospital
- Thanet has a higher number of hospital admissions for vascular disease
- services at Medway Maritime Hospital would not be accessible within 60 minutes for patients on the south coast around Deal and Dover whilst all patients will be able to reach a service at Kent and Canterbury Hospital within 60 minutes
- all patients needing AAA screening already travel to Kent and Canterbury Hospital.
- there is already a dedicated ward for vascular inpatients at Kent and Canterbury Hospital
- Medway Maritime Hospital does not have the space to take over the provision of all vascular inpatients for east Kent, Medway and Maidstone. Extra building would be needed and the site does not have space for this. Building work would also delay the implementation which is needed urgently

More details on the longlist and shortlist of options and the decisions that were taken are available here: jointtheconversation.scwcsu.nhs.uk/vascular-services



What our patients have told us

Over the last seven years we have sought the views and opinions of our patients and their carers at each stage of the review.

Most frequently mentioned as valued by patients were: high quality service able to attract high quality staff; rapid and convenient access to treatment; personal nature of the service; collaboration, coordination and communication across services and teams; and involvement in shared decision making.



- 2015** Ten listening events held across Kent and Medway for both the wider public and where people who had used services were able to share their experiences
- 2016** Workshop held during which clinicians, patients and the public reviewed and discussed the developing clinical model
- 2017** Two workshop events held at the Canterbury and Medway hospital sites to further explore and develop the clinical model and review the range of possible sites for future vascular services
Further workshops held to test and review the evaluation criteria for selecting the best future sites
- 2019** Two workshops and two interviews, to update on the detailed work conducted in 2018 and gain further feedback on patient experience, medium-term plans, clinical recommendations and outline next stages. During this phase the Kent and Canterbury Hospital option was tested with patients.

You can find out more detail about what patients and the public told us here: jointheconversation.scwcsu.nhs.uk/vascular-services

What do the changes mean for patients?

Across this area there are approximately 1,200 vascular treatments in one year. This includes outpatient appointments, planned lower risk day case surgery, such as varicose veins, and the more complex emergency and planned vascular treatments that require a stay in hospital. Across east Kent, Medway and the Maidstone catchment of west Kent, about 700 people need specialist inpatient vascular care each year.

Unlike other health services, where there is a choice of treatment at your nearest local hospital, vascular services are highly specialised. Vascular surgery in east Kent, Medway and the Maidstone catchment of west Kent which needs a hospital stay is currently available at Kent and Canterbury Hospital and Medway Maritime Hospital in Gillingham. Moving to one centre means some patients will have to travel further but evidence shows that being treated in a specialised unit which meets national standards improves outcomes.

This would mean shorter waiting times and reduced risk of dying following emergency treatment, reduced risk of disability from lower limb treatment and faster recovery due to less invasive treatment.

This would be a change for those patients who would currently go to Medway Maritime Hospital where they need an inpatient stay following more complex and higher risk planned and emergency vascular procedures. This would, therefore, affect approximately 265 patients a year.

Emergency and planned major treatments that require an overnight stay, would be provided at a single inpatient vascular centre located at Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury. This will formalise an emergency move made due to a shortage of staff in 2020 where AAA surgery was transferred from the Medway Maritime Hospital to provide a safe service 24 hours a day seven days a week. The remaining complex surgery which still takes place at Medway Maritime Hospital will also relocate to Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

Following surgery patients would either be discharged or return to their local hospital for ongoing care. Investment in new state-of-the-art equipment at Kent and Canterbury Hospital will also mean some procedures will be minimally invasive reducing stay in hospital and with a swifter recovery time.

Medway Maritime Hospital would be an enhanced network hospital providing all existing vascular services apart from inpatient vascular surgery. When rehabilitation is needed after surgery this would be available at Medway and Canterbury.

Most vascular patients do not require major surgery and would continue to receive the majority of their vascular care locally at their local network hospitals at Ashford, Margate and Maidstone. We would also continue to hold outpatient appointments at other local hospitals including Dover and Sheppey to reduce the need for patients to travel.





Patient example 1

Jane

- Jane is 61 years old and lives in Ramsgate
- She is an ex-smoker who has type two diabetes
- Recently she has been experiencing pain in her legs, which she puts down to “getting old”
- She hasn’t been to her GP
- On her last visit to the diabetic clinic the nurse noticed she had cold feet, brittle toe nails and shiny skin
- Jane is referred to the specialist vascular service to check out a suspicion that she may have Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)

How would Jane be cared for?

- Referred by local diabetic nurse
- Sees consultant at Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital and undergoes tests to determine diagnosis and plan treatment
- Treated at inpatient vascular centre at Kent and Canterbury hospital

Medway Maritime Hospital, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital, William Harvey Hospital and Maidstone Hospital would still provide the majority of vascular treatment for local people as part of the network.

This includes:

- simpler procedures and minor surgery (such as the removal of unhealthy tissue or minor amputations)
- diagnostic tests and treatments which don’t require an overnight stay
- continuing care following major surgery after treatment at Kent and Canterbury Hospital. Some patients will be discharged directly home from the inpatient vascular centre. Those needing rehabilitation will be able to remain at Kent and Canterbury Hospital or transfer to Medway Maritime Hospital
- support services such as foot care for those who have had minor surgery or who require ongoing foot care as a result of diabetes
- treatment for varicose veins
- outpatient and follow up appointments

Staff working in vascular services would work together as one team. The aim is to provide a single vascular service across the five hospitals with more doctors working together across a wider geography, who are able to work flexibly and collaboratively to meet patient needs. These changes will mean we will be able to meet the national standards for vascular services and will be able recruit staff who want to work in a centre of excellence.

How would the service work?



The Inpatient Vascular Centre would be at Kent and Canterbury Hospital

The centre will be in place until a decision is made about how care across east Kent's hospitals is organised following consultation about the future of health and care in east Kent.

It is where inpatient surgery which needs an overnight stay would take place. This includes:

- Complex and high risk bypass surgery including urgent and emergency procedures**
- Amputations**
- Balloon or stent treatment**
- Stent grafts**
- Blood clot dissolving treatment**
- Renal access surgery for patients requiring dialysis**

In January 2020, AAA surgery was moved to Kent and Canterbury Hospital from Medway Maritime Hospital to ensure safe services. Moving the rest of complex surgery will complete the inpatient vascular centre. Patients will be discharged to their local network hospital as soon as possible after surgery for ongoing care.

AAA screening will continue to be provided at the centre.

The Inpatient Vascular Centre also provides all of the services available at the network hospitals.



The Enhanced Network Hospital would be at Medway Maritime Hospital

The centre will continue to provide day surgery, interventional radiology together with rehabilitation.

The Enhanced Network Hospital also provides all of the services available at the network hospitals.



Network Hospital William Harvey Hospital, Ashford

- Diagnostics and testing for vascular problems or diseases
- Initial appointments and referrals will be at your nearest local hospital
- Ongoing care and monitoring of your condition before and after surgery
- Follow up consultation and post-surgery care for patients



Network Hospital QEQM Margate

- Diagnostics and testing for vascular problems or diseases
- Initial appointments and referrals will be at your nearest local hospital
- Ongoing care and monitoring of your condition before and after surgery
- Follow up consultation and post-surgery care for patients



Network Hospital Maidstone Hospital

- Diagnostics and testing for vascular problems or diseases
- Initial appointments and referrals will be at your nearest local hospital
- Ongoing care and monitoring of your condition before and after surgery
- Follow up consultation and post-surgery care for patients

Benefits for patients

As an inpatient vascular centre, the Kent and Canterbury hospital will have:

- a specialist operating theatre with a better range of facilities and equipment reducing the need for open surgery, and in turn reducing the length of stay in hospital and swifter recovery time
- a dedicated vascular ward with extra beds for emergency patients 24 hours a day
- vascular nurse specialists – able to support the transfer of patients back to their local hospital/home
- out of hours care which includes evenings and weekends, including on call vascular surgeons and interventional radiologists

With a team working together there should be better co-ordination of care across the network, shorter waiting times and a reduction of complications after surgery. The specialist team will also work with the diabetic and podiatry service to optimise care and prevent amputation.

All of this should improve the patient experience ensuring that patients are receiving a high quality service, with access to the most modern techniques.

Most patients will continue to receive care locally at their local network hospitals at Ashford, Margate and Maidstone.

Clinics will also be available at other local hospitals including Dover and Sheppey to reduce the need to travel.



Patient example 2 Frank

- Frank lives in Medway on his own
- He is very active. He does community work, goes to the gym regularly and has the occasional pint
- He feels fit and healthy but because he's over 65 has recently gone for his routine ultrasound screening
- Results show Frank has an abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) without even knowing it
- He is referred to the vascular service to discuss what treatment is required

How would Frank be cared for?

- Referred via routine AAA screening
- First appointment with consultant at Medway Maritime Hospital to determine treatment
- Aneurysm repaired at Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

Do the changes reflect what patients have told us?

You said – you want a high quality 24/7 service able to attract and retain high calibre staff with specialist skills, with greater collaboration and co-ordination to ensure a streamlined service with reduced waiting times.

You said – you want greater involvement of patients and their families, increased use of technology and a contact number and name for easier access into and advice from the service.

The creation of one team working across the medium-term inpatient vascular centre and the network hospitals is the best way of achieving these. This way we can meet national standards, invest in state-of-the-art technology and attract staff.

You said – you want easier, more timely access to outpatient services and local services that reflect local needs which provides the right aftercare.

Our preferred option means most care and treatment will happen at the local network hospital including outpatient appointments, minor treatments and aftercare.

You said – you want travel times and transport networks to be taken into account when deciding the location of the medium-term inpatient vascular centre.

Moving from two vascular centres to one will mean some patients will have to travel further for treatment. Patient transport will be provided for eligible patients by G4S. Locating the service at the Kent and Canterbury in the medium-term will create no change in travel for the majority of patients.

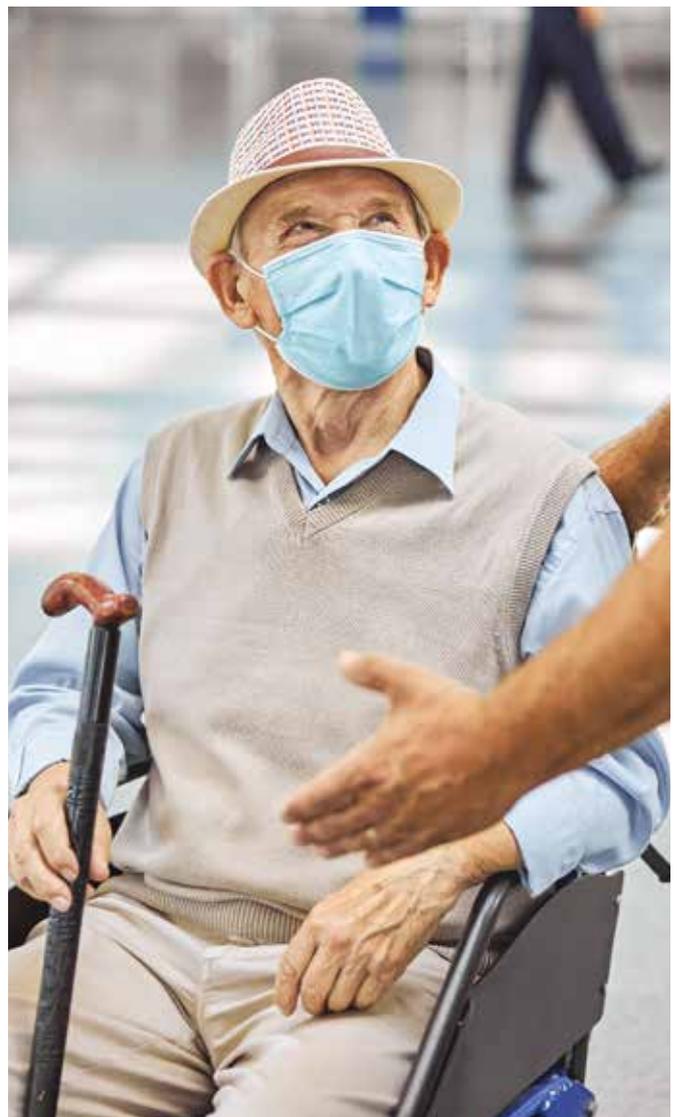
You said – you want the change to fit with local future plans.

The final location of the inpatient vascular centre will be decided as part of a wider plan for the future of health and care in east Kent.

You said – you want better education for GPs, a greater focus on prevention and easily accessible information.

You said – you want greater involvement of patients and their families in care decisions and patients supported to make choices.

We will set up a patient working group which will help co-produce these services. If you are interested in joining please provide your name and contact details when completing the survey.





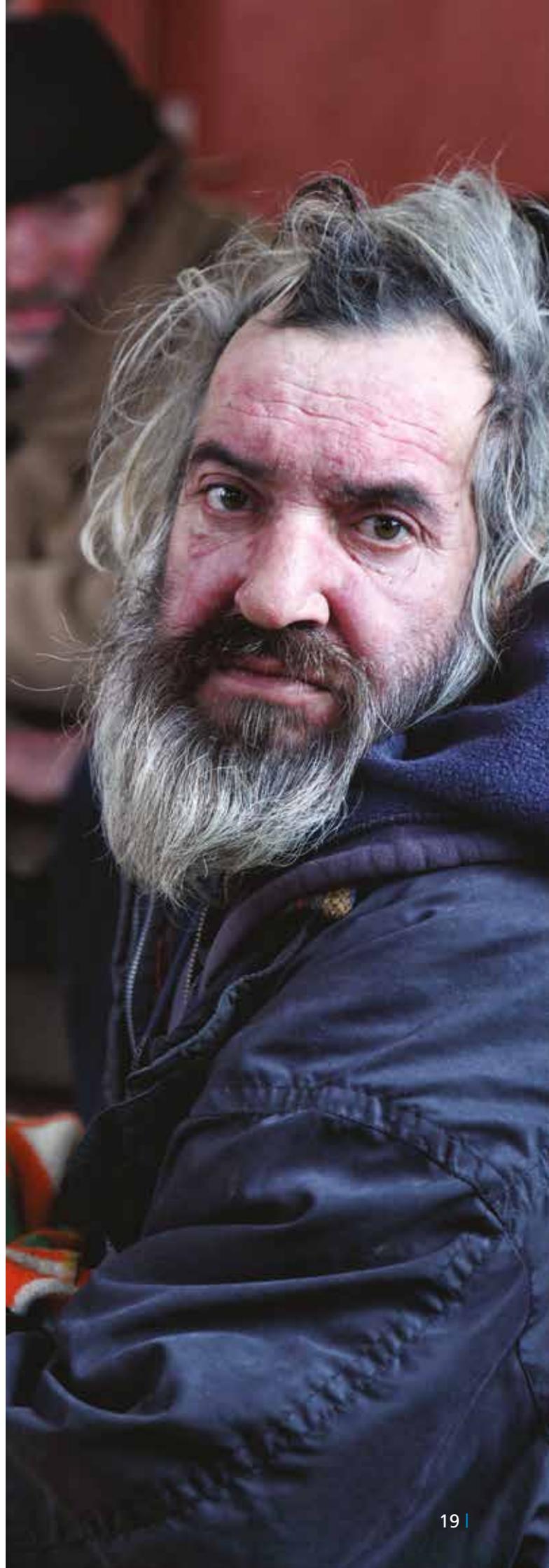
Patient example 3

Dave

- Dave, 40, sometimes sleeps on the streets, drinks dangerous amounts of alcohol and has smoked since he was a teenager
- Three years ago his Ashford GP referred him into the vascular service where he was diagnosed with Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)
- He's sleeping on a friend's sofa at the moment
- His friend took him to his GP because he was so wheezy
- His GP discovered his foot was discoloured and cold
- The GP sent Dave to A&E immediately

How would Dave be cared for?

- Assessed at William Harvey Hospital Ashford as an emergency
- Transferred to Kent and Canterbury Hospital for urgent specialist vascular surgery
- Follow up care at William Harvey Hospital



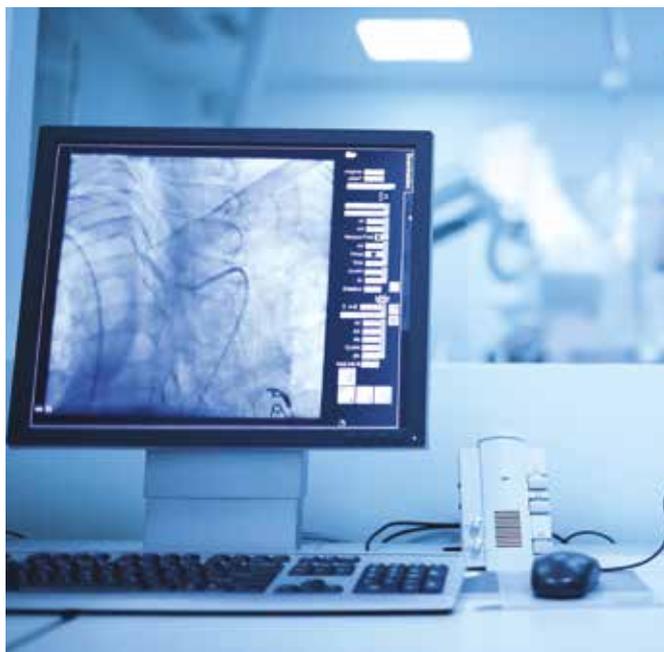
Travel

Travel for patients from the Medway and Maidstone areas needing an inpatient stay for planned surgery at Kent and Canterbury will increase on average from 22 minutes to 44 minutes. These travel times are within the standards set by the Vascular Society. Patients can apply to use patient transport services run by G4S. Details of the eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found here <http://km-pts.co.uk/the-service/eligibility.aspx> or by calling **0800 096 0211**.

If you are not eligible for the service there are voluntary community transport services available in Kent: www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/travelling-around-kent/community-transport and Medway https://www.medway.gov.uk/site_search/results/community+transport

Patients may also be eligible for the NHS Healthcare Travel Scheme. Please visit: www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcosts

Some visitors will have increased travelling time either by public transport or by car. Changes during Covid-19 means patients and families can now remain in contact using tablet computers to make digital calls. Information that can help visiting relatives with planning public transport options can be found here: www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/find-us/public-transport



Workforce



Under this option the specialist workforce would all be located on a single site meaning that they would have sufficient patients to maintain their specialist skills and would provide a comprehensive multi-disciplinary service. The vascular surgical team who are currently employed by Medway Hospital NHS Foundation Trust would be offered the opportunity to transfer to East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust. This includes five consultant vascular surgeons, one specialty registrar, two vascular nurse specialists and three administrative staff.

Some members of Medway Hospital's anaesthetic team and interventional radiology team would continue to provide vascular surgical care Kent and Canterbury Hospital but will remain employed at Medway.

The proposed changes will make the workforce more sustainable providing opportunities to develop skills including training and research. It will also reduce the amount of time each member of staff has to be on call.



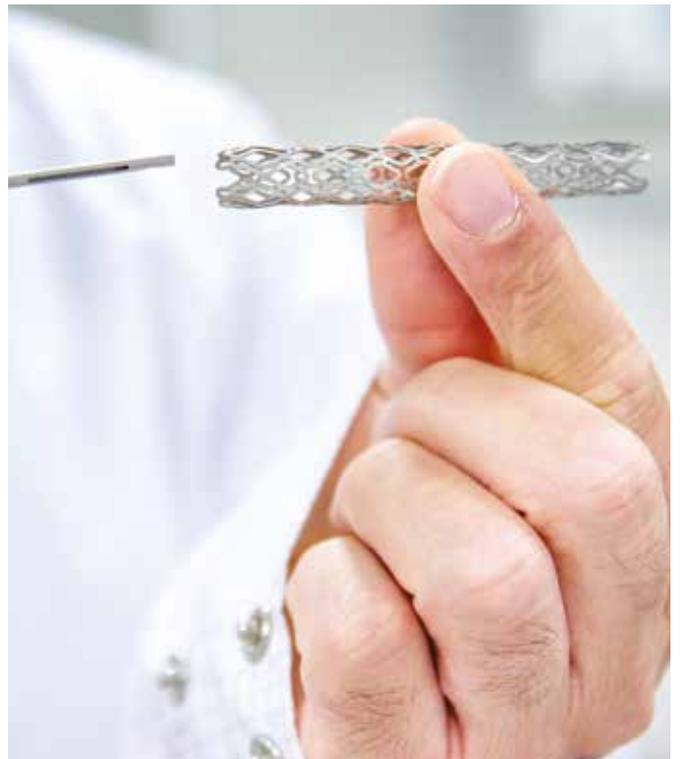
Finance

The preferred option will create a more productive and efficient service minimising duplication and waste by avoiding the replication of technology and staff in hospitals throughout the network. Some of these non-financial savings will be of major benefit to patients including:

- early interventions to avoid stroke with treatment for carotid artery disease and earlier treatments to reduce amputations due to arterial disease in the lower limbs
- reduced length of stay for patients due to less invasive treatments.

The service changes required to deliver sustainable vascular services will incur some additional investment and East Kent Hospitals have already invested in a new interventional radiology suite at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital for their existing service therefore even more patients will benefit from this capacity.

The additional funding from the CCG and NHS England Specialised Commissioning to support the move has been agreed. NHS England will be undertaking a review of how this service will be commissioned and paid for in future.



Have your say: 2022

We are now consulting about our preferred option to create a medium-term inpatient vascular centre at Kent and Canterbury Hospital. To ensure we have taken into account the impact on patients and their families we are seeking views on:

- the advantages and disadvantages of our proposal to create a single vascular centre for inpatient surgery
- whether our proposals will make the improvements we need to meet national standards
- how we can ensure that patients have a good, high-quality experience of all the services required for their care, including:
 - inpatient vascular surgery at the proposed vascular inpatient centre (treatment requiring an overnight stay)
 - outpatient services available at local hospitals (clinic appointments or tests without an overnight stay)
 - advice and support from the patient's GP
 - aftercare as close to home as possible
 - any other support services required
- anything we need to consider in terms of travel and transport arrangements for both patients and visitors
- anything else we need to consider in our design and delivery of vascular services.

You can provide feedback in a number of ways as set out below:

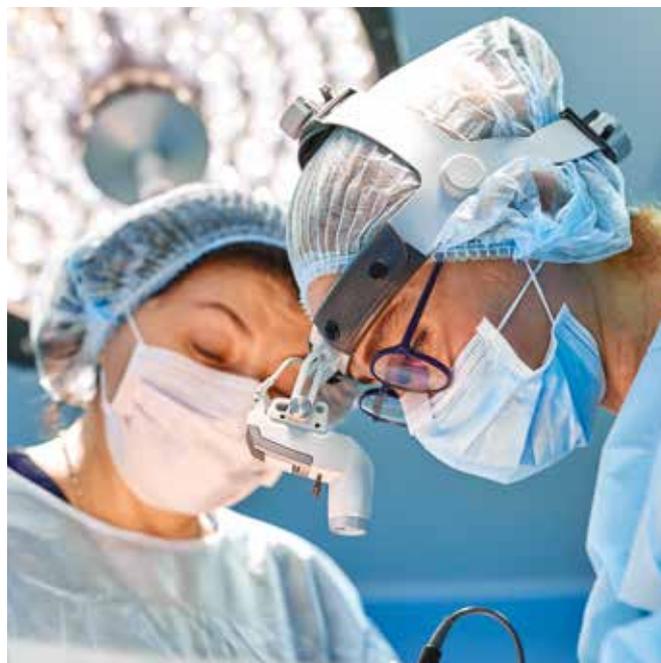
Join one of our listening events on:

9 Feb 5.00pm -7.00 pm

22 Feb 10.00am-12.00 noon

1 March 10.00am-12.00 noon

8 March 11.00am-1.00 pm



To find out more about the consultation on the future of vascular services in east Kent, Medway and Maidstone, to book for one of the events and to complete a survey on-line visit: jointheconversation.scwcsu.nhs.uk/vascular-services

To request a printed copy of the consultation document email england.seconsultation@nhs.net Please provide an address if you need a copy sent in the post. You can also call **01634 974040**.

Please let us know if you need information in large print, braille, audio, easy read or in another language, including support with interpreters. You can ask someone to contact us on your behalf.

If you have a printed copy of the consultation document on the future of vascular services and have completed the printed survey, this can be returned to the following address:

Freepost: MEDWAY NHS FT MEMBERSHIP OFFICE

To request this document in an alternative format contact england.seconsultation@nhs.net

The consultation closes 15 March 2022

65+ and male?

A free and quick NHS scan can tell if you have an abnormal aortic aneurysm.

Take your AAA test when you are contacted.

Men aged 65 and over are most at risk of AAAs, and screening can help spot a swelling in the aorta at an early stage.

The test is a quick and painless ultrasound scan of the abdomen (tummy) like the scan pregnant women have to check on their baby. The whole test usually takes about 10 to 15 minutes.

AAA screening is offered to men during the year that they turn 65. When you are eligible for the screening you will receive a letter in the post inviting you to attend screening at Kent and Canterbury Hospital. If you have received a letter and have not taken up the opportunity or if you are over 65 and have not received an invitation you can contact the screening service to make an appointment by emailing: **ekhft.aaascreening@nhs.net** or calling: **01227 868775**

Screening is not routinely offered to groups where there is a smaller risk of an AAA.

Any women, or men under 65 who think they are at higher risk (for example, due to family history of the condition) can talk to their GP about the possibility of having a scan outside the screening programme.

Attending AAA screening is your choice.

For more information, please visit
aaa.screening.nhs.uk
or talk to your GP.

