**Major Urology Capacity Issues**

In light of the severe capacity issues at the Oxford University Hospitals, we are asking you to ask all your patients to ***consider alternative providers*** when referring them ***for any urological condition.***

For practices at the borders of the County this is imperative as travel, parking and visiting is often easier for those patients than using the OUH in central Oxford. However once seen for a first outpatient appointment, patients are understandably reluctant to change their specialist, so they need to be prompted to make this choice up front, when the idea of a referral is first muted.

Services in other areas have been identified as Royal Berkshire Foundation Trust (RBFT) and Ramsay Healthcare, Blakeland Hospital Milton Keynes, they are of a similar quality where the patient will be seen much sooner if they chose these providers (see eRS for guidance).

Please have those conversation with your patients as they will often make choices based on your advice.

Currently the patients are polling out way beyond a reasonable time at OUH, and with current issue round theatre capacity these waiting list are likely to get worse before they get better.

These are very difficult times in terms of increasing demand and lack of capacity, not least for patients, across Bucks, Oxfordshire and Berks (BOB). The CCG are focussed on all possible potential solutions for Oxfordshire, but we would ask you to assist us in ensuring that the capacity in other areas are used, where appropriate, by voicing your opinion with patients.

Thank you for your co-operation .

Dr Shelley Hayles

OCCG Planned Care Clinical lead

January 2020