

Dear colleague,

During next week's half-term period, it is usual for EEAST to expect a potential increase in activity. There is also the potential for increased night-time economy activity that is usual for weekend Halloween evenings.

This additional activity matched with a reduction in the number of emergency ambulances we are able to provide, in particular on Monday and Tuesday.

We have been aware and planning for this and our actions next week include:

- We are increasing the number of emergency ambulances using other clinical staff/leaders.
- Presently we have a resilient number of telephone triage clinicians that undertake assessments and discharge by telephone.
- We have increased our emergency ambulance capacity on Saturday 31st night in particular based on the potential of specific night-time economy activity.
- Our Patient Transport Services (PTS) are not presenting any significant risks.
- We maybe redeploying some non-operational staff to assist with HALO or similar duties at acute sites where required.

We are asking system partners to specifically be aware of:

- The impact that any increase in hospital ambulance handover delays will have on our risks and plans, The need to be able to access senior Trust leaders (Gold and Executives) should ambulance handover delays occur so that we can create joint plans that support effective risk management,
- The request that every effort to minimise ambulance handover delays, in particular between 16:00 – 22:00hrs occurs. Your support to reduce and assist us is timely patient handover is important especially for Monday and Tuesday (26th and 27th October),
- Any options to reduce activity directed towards the ambulance service would be beneficial on Monday and Tuesday including patients transporting themselves where clinically appropriate to do so.

Thank you for your support and assistance.

Regards

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