

The Lawson Unit Newsletter

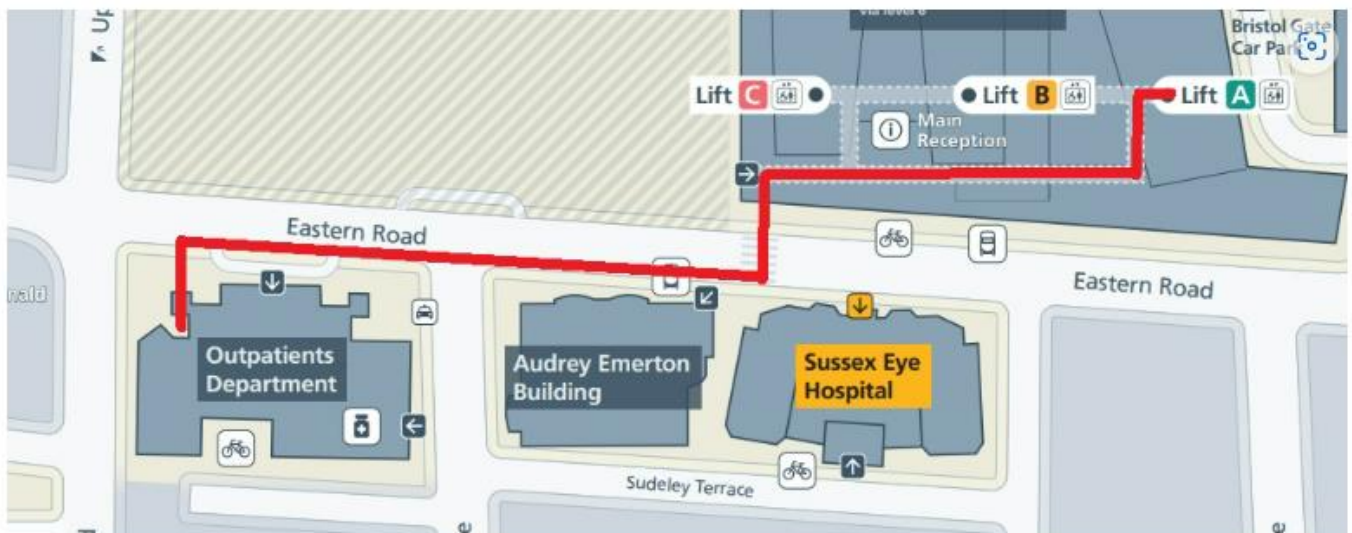
Summer 2023 (5th Edition)

HEADLINE NEWS – We've finally moved!!

The Lawson Unit finally moved on 19th June and we are now settled in our new home in the Louise Martindale Building @ A6. We're still called the Lawson Unit and our wonderful team are exactly the same. The only difference is our fabulous new location on the 6th floor and the stunning views of the wonderful South Downs and of course, the sea.

Where is the new Lawson Unit?

- Enter the new hospital building from Eastern Road.
- Follow the signs to Lift 'A'
- Take lift A to level 6 – you're there!



Getting in touch with us



Getting through on the phone can sometimes be challenging.... But did you know that you can email us for simple queries or changing appointments?

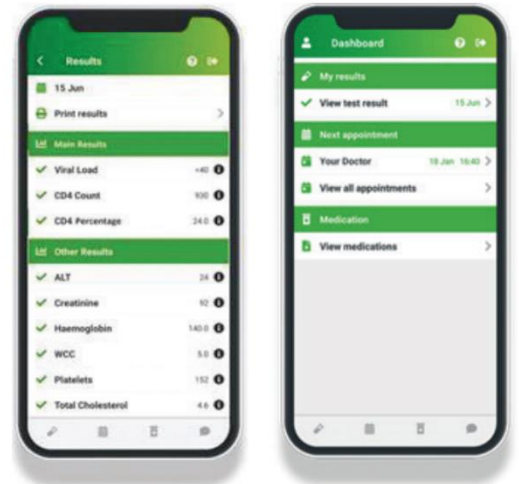
uhsussex.lawsonunit@nhs.net

EmERGE

Have you heard about EmERGE?? EmERGE is our newest digital health innovation which works by giving you access to a highly secure mobile app.

The app connects to your HIV health record and provides you with instant access to:

- Results (both current and historic)
- Information about your medication
- Appointment dates
- A two-way messaging system which allows you to communicate directly with the Lawson Unit.



Ask your doctor or nurse for more information or contact the EmERGE team directly:

uhsussex.emerge@nhs.net



Injectable HIV medication Some new HIV treatments are available in the form of long acting injectables, which can be used as an alternative to oral medications.

Like all HIV treatment options, there are a number of criteria for this to be a safe option for people; including certain resistance mutations to the drugs, a detectable viral load in the previous 6-months, difficulties in keeping to a strict 2-monthly appointment schedule.

We will routinely discuss injectable treatment with eligible patients, however, please feel free to ask your doctor or nurse at your next appointment. More information is available via our Patient Information Leaflet: <https://brightonsexualhealth.com/wp-content/uploads/LAInjectables2022.pdf>

New team members

Welcome Natalie!! We are very lucky to have a new staff nurse, Natalie!! She is friendly, kind, super-knowledgeable and we are all very excited to welcome her to our Lawson Unit family. She has worked for many years in cardiac intensive care and is all-round amazing! If you see her in clinic - say hi!

Dr Fionnuala Finnerty joined our team back in 2015 and recently been appointed as a permanent Consultant in Sexual Health and HIV medicine. Fionnuala will be working between our Sexual Health and HIV clinics in Crawley and Brighton. CONGRATULATIONS!!

Do you know about the following groups?

Lawson Unit Patient Panel

The 'Patient Panel' is a group consisting of Lawson Unit patient volunteers that work with our team to make sure the patient voice is heard at every level to help us to improve our services. The panel meet 3 times/year with approximately 5-10 patient volunteers at each meeting. If you would like more information or would like to come along to the next meeting, please contact colin.fitzpatrick@nhs.net



Lawson Unit 'Green Team'

Our primary environmental target is for UHSussex to become Net Zero Carbon for direct emissions (NHS Carbon Footprint) by 2040 and indirect emissions (NHS Carbon Footprint Plus) by 2045. The Lawson Unit have a dedicated 'Green team' that meet on a monthly basis to discuss ways to improve. Our green team is made up of multidisciplinary team members from SHAC & Lawson Unit and a patient volunteer ambassador.

The UK HIV Treatment Advocate Network (UK-CAB)

It's easy to join the UK-CAB. Membership is open to people living with HIV and HIV community advocates. You can join as an individual or to represent a group



The UK-CAB have 3 three main aims:

1. To develop and strengthen this network. We use an online forum and at meetings.
2. To provide training on treatment issues. This includes meeting with doctors, researchers and drug companies. All resources are posted online.
3. To support community representation when this affects our care. This includes guideline panels, research studies and national commissioning groups. Reps are elected by CAB members.

For more info please visit: www.ukcab.net/about

Sussex HIV Network – A network of clinicians, patient representatives and communities across of the whole of Sussex working to provide excellent care across all 6 Sussex HIV centres.

BHIVA

BHIVA is the leading UK association representing professionals in HIV care. Since 1995, we have been committed to providing excellent care for people living with and affected by HIV. BHIVA is a national advisory body on all aspects of HIV care and provide a national platform for HIV care issues. BHIVA representatives contribute to international, national and local committees dealing with HIV care, as well as promoting undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing medical education within HIV care.

www.BHIVA.org

NHS England ‘Gloves off’ campaign

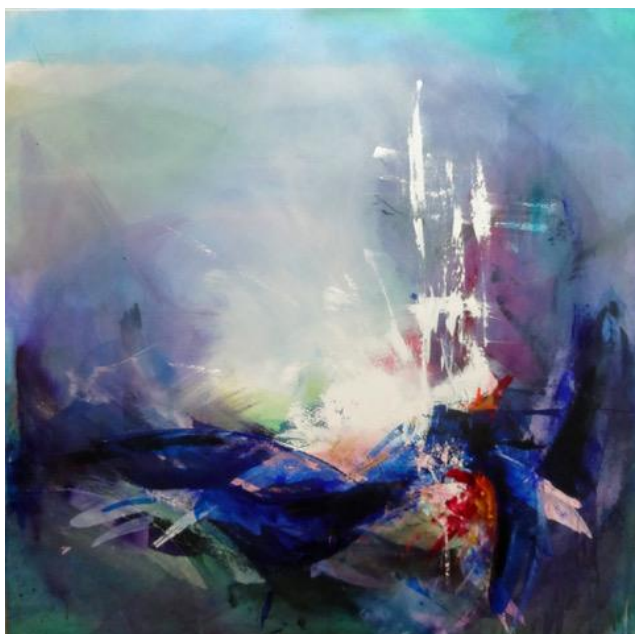
The use of non-sterile gloves has been associated with a significant potential for cross-contamination and transmission of healthcare-associated infections. This is because they are often used when they aren’t needed, put on too early, taken off too late or not changed at critical points.



1.4 billion gloves are used across the NHS each year. The Lawson Unit are committed to an evidence-based approach to wearing gloves only when appropriate. ‘Taking bloods’ is a perfect example of when wearing gloves is completely unnecessary – so you’ll notice at your next appointment we’re not wearing gloves to take your bloods.

Artwork relocation to the new Lawson Unit

We are delighted to have these amazing paintings adorn our walls once again in the Lawson Unit. The paintings are generously on loan from Romany Mark Bruce and have been a familiar sight within the department for some years. Romany commented on the artwork relocation:



“I am pleased that the three paintings Ecuad 1, 2 & 3 have crossed the Eastern Road.

In 2014 I was invited to be the official photographer for Hernia International, a charity bringing together surgeons from all over the world to volunteer their time to perform hernia repairs in poor and disadvantaged areas of the world. After a week in theatre, I travelled to The Galapagos, the inspiration for this body of work.

It seems fitting that they now have a home overlooking the sea.”

www.romanymarkbruce.com

Instagram: @artist.romanymarkbruce

HIV and Brain Health

We have made a short animation about cognitive impairment and looking after your brain health for people living with HIV. The animation launched on 22nd July for World Brain Day and is voiced by Sir Simon Callow. The video is a collaboration between Brighton and Sussex Medical School, Brighton and Sussex LGBTQ+ Switchboard and people living with HIV who have cognitive issues.

It is part of an information initiative we are developing in response to finding that many people living with HIV who have cognitive impairment are unsure of what it means, what can cause it and what the future holds – which causes stress and anxiety.

Watch the video here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v= AB7MdiVfJE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AB7MdiVfJE)



The Martin Fisher Foundation

The Martin Fisher Foundation is a Brighton & Hove charity which was set up in September 2015 by colleagues, family and friends of Professor Martin Fisher in memory of his outstanding national and international contribution to the field of HIV research and



patient care. The vision of the charity is to eliminate new HIV cases within a generation by increasing HIV testing, improving knowledge of HIV, increasing availability PrEP and reducing HIV stigma.

For more info, visit www.themartinfisherfoundation.org

“ENDING NEW HIV TRANSMISSIONS IN THE UK IS WITHIN OUR GRASP!”

Ending new HIV transmissions in this city and the UK is within our grasp. We have the knowledge, ambition, and the tools to achieve this goal: if everyone knows their HIV status, and commences prompt HIV treatment if diagnosed positive, or accesses effective prevention initiatives if negative and at ongoing risk, then we can STOP new transmissions.

We have created a short explainer animation to up-date people’s knowledge around HIV. The film aims to increase HIV testing in the general population as well as tackle HIV related stigma and discrimination.

Watch the video here: www.youtu.be/YiCSUym-MI8