

Stroke services at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

Stroke services at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells hospitals are provided by a number of elderly care consultants who are specialist in stroke.

Patients are treated on an acute stroke and rehabilitation ward at Maidstone Hospital and an acute stroke ward at Tunbridge Wells Hospital, with rehabilitation both on site and at Tunbridge Cottage Hospital. Both Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells hospitals have scanning facilities. Our consultants are supported by non-specialist elderly care consultants and consultant neurologists when needed. We also have two stroke clinical nurse specialists and therapy teams.

Both of our hospitals provide a hyper-acute, as well as an acute stroke service throughout the week, but we do not have a dedicated hyper-acute unit. Out of hours and weekends, our stroke units are covered by nurses, on-call consultants and a telemedicine scheme for new referrals. Between April and June 2014, 51% of all stroke patients seen at Maidstone Hospital and 65% of all stroke patients seen at Tunbridge Wells, were seen out of normal daily hours.

Our hospitals are part of a network of hospitals in West Kent that use telemedicine to share their expertise out of hours to assist in thrombolysing patients. Doctors in a different location give a virtual assessment for stroke patients via a video camera and screen. The doctor can speak to the patient and their relatives, while at the same time, is able to see test results and scans to help make a decision on treatment because not every stroke patient benefits from thrombolysis. The clinical teams in the hospital that the patient came to can then administer the correct treatment.

The number of patients admitted with a suspected stroke at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells hospitals for the last three years is shown below.

	Maidstone	Tunbridge Wells	Total
2011/12	292	346	638
2012/13	296	324	620
2013/14	317	346	663

The average number of days stroke patients stay in our hospitals is shown in the table below:

Site	2012-13	2013-14
Maidstone	15.4	16.3
Tunbridge Wells	16.7	19.3
Trust average	16.1	18.0