

PAT/10/192

Tuesday, 5 January 2010

## **Important notice for hospital patients – 5 January 2010**

THE Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust which runs North Manchester General Hospital, Rochdale Infirmary, The Royal Oldham Hospital and Fairfield General Hospital in Bury is advising patients not to risk travelling to hospital unless in an emergency.

Due to the severe weather conditions and the location and geography of the four hospital sites, the Trust is asking patients who are due to attend hospital today for either an outpatient appointment or elective surgery not to travel.

The Trust will contact patients to rearrange their appointment later in the week.

Visitors of family and friends in hospital are also advised not to travel today.

The Trust will continue to focus its attention on providing emergency services at its four hospitals.

Staff are encouraged to attend work where possible and safe to do so due to the expected increased demand on emergency services and to continue to provide nursing care to people already in hospital. However, staff are advised to take heed of police advice about travel and to check conditions before setting out.

The public are urged to only call 999 in an emergency, where there is a threat to life.

Patients who feel the need to speak to someone at the Trust about their appointment can call the Contact Centre on 0161 778 2233 (and use the call-back facility if busy) or email [booking@pat.nhs.uk](mailto:booking@pat.nhs.uk).

For more information about health care services in Great Manchester and impact of the weather visit the Strategic Health Authority NHS North West online at [www.northwest.nhs.uk](http://www.northwest.nhs.uk)

### **Notes to editors**

For further information, please contact Andrew Lynn, senior communications manager, on tel: 0161 604 5459 or email [andrew.lynn@pat.nhs.uk](mailto:andrew.lynn@pat.nhs.uk)

The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust runs Bury's Fairfield General Hospital, North Manchester General Hospital, The Royal Oldham Hospital, Rochdale Infirmary and also has services at Birch Hill Hospital.