

Changes to Trauma and Orthopaedic services at North Manchester General Hospital and Northern Care Alliance sites from 31 March 2025

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) is entering its fourth phase of disaggregating North Manchester General Hospital (NMGH) services previously held by the Pennine Acute NHS Hospital Trust. The fourth phase of service disaggregation takes place on 31st March 2025 and relates to Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) services.

What does disaggregation mean?

Disaggregation refers to the process of separating NMGH (previously run by Pennine Care) from the Northern Care Alliance (which runs the remaining three Pennine Care hospitals).

This means that services and management at NMGH have been reorganised, with some services being moved or restructured to align with MFT's model, while others may remain with the NCA at hospitals like Royal Oldham, Fairfield General, and Rochdale Infirmary.

What is changing?

- New T&O referrals from the North Manchester catchment area will come into MFT from 31st March 2025. This means that patients will receive an end-to-end service from a single provider, rather than split across both MFT and NCA.
- From 31st March 2025 the following changes will apply for patients under the care of MFT:
 - All outpatient T&O services will be provided at NMGH.
 - Daycase surgery will be provided at NMGH rather than Fairfield General Hospital (FGH).
 - Inpatient surgery will be provided at the Manchester Orthopaedic Centre at Trafford General Hospital from 1 August 2025. Prior to this, surgery will continue to be undertaken at FGH.
 - The existing FGH / NMGH trauma axis will cease from 31st March 2025. From this date, trauma patients attending FGH A&E who require admission will be transferred to the Royal Oldham Hospital (ROH), rather than NMGH.
- The NCA will continue to provide outpatient appointments at FGH, ROH and Rochdale Infirmary (RI) and inpatient and outpatient surgery at FGH and RI respectively.

What does this mean for GPs?

- There is no change for GPs and they should continue to refer patients through the relevant Gateway or Single Point of Access Service within their locality.
- Referral arrangements for GPs within the NCA catchment area will remain unchanged.

What does this mean for patients?

- One of key principles of the disaggregation process is to maintain consultant continuity of care. Existing patients will remain under their current consultant, even if the responsibility for the management of their care transfers to MFT.
- Any existing patient affected by these changes will be contacted in advance by the NCA.

Patient choice

- Patients will continue to be able to choose an MFT or NCA pathway for their care.
- During the transition period (Jan-Mar 25), arrangements have been in place to enable referrals for NMGH catchment patients to be made/transferred to MFT – any patient choice requests for the NCA have been respected during this period.
- From 31st March 2025, both MFT and NCA will assume that any referrals received reflect patient choice for that organisation.

Communications and next steps

To support Gateway Service booking teams and aid understanding of these upcoming changes, NCA and MFT colleagues have been communicating with the gateway services to provide an update and answer any questions.