

Dear Patient

Re: Important access changes to Watford General Hospital

From Wednesday 16 November, access routes to and from Watford General Hospital are changing. As you have an appointment booked in the near future, we wanted to write and ensure that you have all the relevant information. In the early hours of 16 November Watford Borough Council will be opening a new road 'Thomas Sawyer Way' which will be the main access road in and out of the hospital. The previous route via Vicarage Road can only be accessed for dropping off and disabled parking. All hospital services can be accessed via the new main road entrance.

On the reverse of this letter is a map which highlights how patients and visitors should access Watford General Hospital from the morning of Wednesday 16 November. New road signs across the town are also being updated to support people as they navigate in and out of the new hospital road.

The new road will help to improve the speed that emergency vehicles can access A&E and more general vehicle access to the hospital. Over time it will also help to improve the flow of traffic on the roads surrounding the hospital and around Watford.

We would encourage anyone coming to the hospital over the next few weeks to allow additional time for their journey whilst visitors get used to accessing the new site via an alternative route. Extra car parking staff will be on site during this transitional period to help patients and visitors arriving at the hospital. The location, designation and number of car park spaces are not affected, although vehicle routes within the hospital site will change to link with the new road.

We have included some question and answers below that may be of help to you. If you require further information on access routes, please visit our website www.westhertshospitals.nhs.uk or call our switchboard on 01923 244366.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Duggleby

Head of Strategic Development & Compliance, West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I still drop someone off outside the main building?

If you access via the new road, yes it will still be possible to drop off outside the main building - and then return to the main car park if you plan to stay on site.

How do I access disabled parking?

Disabled parking can be accessed by both the **new** main entrance or via the Vicarage Road entrance.

What are the arrangements for accessing the maternity unit when the new road opens?

The maternity unit will be sign posted on main roads as you arrive towards the hospital. It will be possible to drop off outside the maternity building from either the main entrance or from the Vicarage Road entrance but there will only be limited visitor car parking adjacent to the maternity building. Further information on parking arrangements will be available from the main reception desk on arrival or can be accessed via our website www.westhertshospitals.nhs.uk