



GP News



London Ambulance Service **NHS**
NHS Trust



"The London Ambulance Service believes it is important to keep in touch with GPs. We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter and we welcome your feedback."

Pressures over Christmas

Our Cat A activity is currently 14% higher (YTD) compared to the same time last year. Like other parts of the NHS, the LAS is faced with additional **pressure on resources** during the winter period. This can be further exacerbated by **exceptional weather** and **illness outbreaks**. The LAS has a plan to manage pressure surges over the winter and will continue to work with primary care and acute trust colleagues to safely manage **patient demand** during this time. We ask that GPs give additional consideration to decisions regarding patient **conveyance by ambulance**. Please follow the guide (below right) when booking one. Thank you for your continued support and the LAS would like to take this opportunity to wish you *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



Visit our website to read more about subjects covered in this newsletter:

www.londonambulance.nhs.uk

Soho Alcohol Recovery Centre



The **Soho Alcohol Recovery Centre (SARC)** was set up in 2010 and is open throughout the year on Friday and Saturday nights, and during the Christmas period and special events. It is based at the Soho Walk-in-Centre and LAS staff are able to treat patients at the centre instead of taking them to hospital. The SARC accepts patients (18+ yrs) who are **intoxicated by alcohol** and gives them a safe place to sober up under clinical supervision. Patients must meet the **admissions criteria** and no admission will be accepted if the patient presents with a head injury or any suspicion or confirmation of drug use.

The majority of patients arrive by our alternative response vehicle ('**booze bus**') or frontline ambulance, with a small number via the police or self presentation. Patients are provided with **alcohol advice leaflets** and given the opportunity to talk with an **alcohol liaison individual** about their alcohol consumption. To read more about the 'booze bus' and SARC please visit our website:

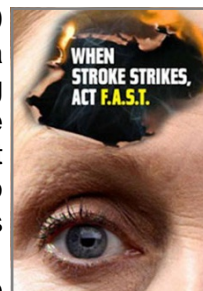
www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/news/alcohol-related_999_incidents.aspx

Annual stroke report

The Service's 2011/12 stroke report shows that over 8,250 suspected stroke patients were taken by ambulance directly to a specialist hospital in London last year. LAS staff have been taking patients with suspected stroke directly to one of eight **hyper-acute stroke units (HASUs)** in the capital since 2010, where expert clinicians offer round-the-clock, life-saving care. The report also shows that the average **ambulance journey time** to a HASU takes only one minute longer than to the local A&E department.

Medical Director Fionna Moore said: "Our staff are giving stroke patients the best chance of survival by taking them directly to a hyper-acute stroke unit for specialist care. Crews will sometimes bypass local A&E departments, but the slightly longer journey time ultimately means the patient is getting rapid access to the most **appropriate treatment**." For more details please visit our website:

www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/news/news_releases_and_statements/stroke_report.aspx



GPs requesting ambulance transfers

If a patient requires an ambulance, there are 4 levels of urgency for transportation:

- 8 min 'blue-light'
- 30 min 'blue-light'
- 60 min non 'blue-light'
- Over 60 minutes



Please choose wisely and refer to the LAS website for full details.

www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/gp