

# The Royal Wolverha

## Respiratory

### Patient Initiated Follow Up (PIFU)

**If you wish to access PIFU, please call the team on :**

**01902 694157**

#### **What is 'Patient Initiated Follow Up' (PIFU)?**

- Patient-initiated follow-up (PIFU) puts you, in control of when you require support by the respiratory team. It means spending less time attending hospital appointments, but still having access to specialist clinical input when you need it.
- You can initiate a follow up appointment when you feel you there is a change to your condition or circumstances, or if your symptoms are causing you trouble.
- You will have direct access to guidance when you need it the most, as opposed to attending a follow up within a set timeframe which may not be needed.
- If your condition is stable, you may not find it helpful to attend a regular outpatient appointment scheduled by the hospital. Sometimes, these appointments may not result in any change to your treatment, but you will have spent time and energy putting arrangements in place to attend your appointment.

#### **How is PIFU beneficial to you?**

- You will not have to make any unnecessary journeys to the hospital attending a follow up appointment which may not really be needed. You will only need to attend an appointment if you feel you need or want one.
- You will have more control over your care and how an appointment is initiated as opposed to attending follow up appointments at fixed routine intervals. We will aim to see you within a small number of weeks after you get in touch.

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## **How do I make an appointment?**

Making an appointment is easy; you just need to call the booking team on the number provided at the start and end of this leaflet. Please provide your NHS number when you call, which can be found at the top of any hospital letter. Please briefly explain that you need some clinical advice and are on PIFU.

In most cases we will arrange an appointment for you within 8 weeks. Sometimes it will be most appropriate to support you by having a remote consultation over the telephone, but an in-person appointment may also be arranged if necessary.

Please note, when calling to arrange a patient-initiated follow-up appointment, the appointment can only be arranged for the specific condition discussed at your original consultation. Any new issues or conditions will need to be discussed with your GP or care provider.

## **What symptoms should I get advice about?**

Your respiratory clinician will outline the most important situations that should prompt you to contact them by PIFU. That does not mean that you cannot contact them at other times if you think you need to. Some of the most common queries are:

- If you wish to return to regular follow-up appointments instead of PIFU
- An increase in symptoms for the condition for which you are being treated.
- An increase in the severity of symptoms for which you are being treated.
- New, different or change in symptom pattern for the condition for which you are being treated.
- A query re: medication dosing, timing, duration of treatment or new side effects.

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