In 2018, the West Yorkshire Association of Acute Trust (hospitals working together) agreed it would be best for people needing vascular care if all vascular services in West Yorkshire (except Harrogate, who work with York Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to provide vascular services for people in their area) were brought together into a ‘single regional service’ under one management team. This will create one of the largest vascular services in England covering a population of over two million and with almost 40 specialist vascular consultants (surgeons and interventional radiologists).
What we are doing

For people receiving treatment it will improve ease and equity of access to vascular services as well as continuity of care. Although our outcomes are very good, there are pockets of knowledge, expertise, and technical developments held in different units across the area. We need to embrace the ‘best’ practice and share the skills and break down any organisational boundaries. A single service would allow development of regional wide sub-specialist teams to make sure everyone receives the same care and treatment no matter where they live.

Regional working as a single service should also work to importantly give people increased choice. If there is a long waiting list at one site for a certain type of procedure but a shorter wait on another site, we should be able to offer the person the procedure sooner by moving outside of organisational boundaries.

What next?

Once the service is established we will be offering people who access care the opportunity to participate in research and development projects so that health researchers have access to a bigger pool of people to make studies more successful across West Yorkshire and Harrogate – and most importantly improve the health and care provided to people now and in the future.

Dr. Neeraj Bhasin, Consultant Vascular Surgeon and Regional Clinical Director for the West Yorkshire Vascular Services

NHS Wakefield CCG
White Rose House
West Parade
Wakefield
WF1 1LT
westyorkshire.stp@nhs.net
www.wyhpartnership.co.uk
@WYHpartnership
01924 317659

A partnership made up of the NHS, local councils, care providers, Healthwatch, community and carers organisations.

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