

**Review of impact of non-arterial centre designation on
Warrington Hospital and the people it serves**

The Cheshire and Merseyside Vascular Review project board have informed Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust that, subject to consultation, they will not be recommending to commissioners the designation of Warrington Hospital as an arterial centre.

Senior staff at the hospital have shared with Warrington Health Consortium their concerns about the impact of this decision on Warrington Hospital and the people it serves.

As lead commissioner for Warrington and Halton Trust, Warrington Health Consortium has concluded that these issues need thorough assessment before a final decision is made about the designation of arterial centres. It is convening a team to assess the impact of the proposed changes, and will not make a decision until that assessment is complete.

The assessment will involve defining the exact nature of the Trust's concerns and assessing the risk to local services that non-designation might pose. This will include consideration of the impact on interventional radiology, trauma, stroke and other services for the people of Warrington and Halton, St Helens and Knowsley.

The assessment will not be complete before 30 September 2011.

Halton Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee may wish to take into consideration this assessment in deciding whether to arrange a meeting with the vascular review team. The committee may consider that the discussion would be of more value to them if it was also informed by the results of this assessment. However, we are always ready to discuss the vascular review with members of local authorities and would be delighted to meet the committee very shortly if that is what they wish.

Tom Dent
Project director
13 June 2011