

Weekly News

International Nurses' Day 2026

It's International #NursesDay (IND) today (Tuesday 12 May 2026)! IND is celebrated around the world on 12 May, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. Today, we are celebrating all of our incredible Nursing colleagues who care for countless patients across Morecambe Bay every day. We can't thank you all enough. ❤️

Get more info on #IND2026 and see how you can get involved: [International Nurses' Day](#).



National Operating Department Practitioner (ODP) Day



It's National #ODPDay on 14 May 2026! ODP Day is an opportunity to recognise the vital contribution that Operating Department Practitioners make every day across UHMBT and the whole NHS. Thank you to all of our amazing ODP's!

The College of Operating Department Practitioners introduced National ODP Day in 2018 with the primary aim of raising awareness of the profession and a recognition of the vital commitment and contribution ODPs make within healthcare. The theme for National ODP Day 2026 is People, Planet and Progress, and reflects what matters most to us in the ODP profession:

- The people we care for and work alongside
- The responsibility we share for a sustainable future
- The progress we are determined to make together
- Get more info: [College of Operating Department Practitioners](#)

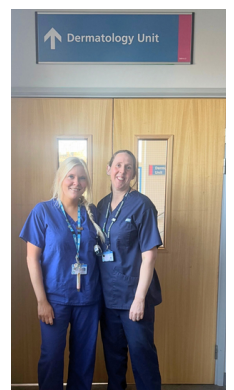
UHMBT Dermatology Team shortlisted for prestigious national award

The Dermatology Team at University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust (UHMBT) has been shortlisted for Team of the Year in the British Dermatology Nursing Group (BDNG) Awards 2026.



This fantastic national recognition of the team's dedication and commitment to patient care was made possible thanks to Danielle Boston, a recently appointed member of staff, who nominated the team and shared her personal experience of joining the service.

In her nomination, Danielle highlighted the warm welcome she received, the supportive culture within the team and the way colleagues work together to consistently deliver high standards of care and excellent patient outcomes.



The team works across the Royal Lancaster Infirmary (RLI) and Furness General Hospital (FGH) in Barrow and the unit is led by Faye Vereker, Unit Manager for Dermatology at both sites, alongside Dr Robert Burd, Clinical Lead. You can read the full story here: [UHMBT Dermatology Team shortlisted for prestigious national award](#).



Upcoming Site Briefings

Our in-person site briefings are a valuable opportunity to hear directly from local leaders about the developments and innovations taking place across our main hospitals. Our next round of briefings will be held over the next week or so, as below:

- **FGH:** Thursday 14 May from 1pm in the Conference Room, Education Centre
- **RLI:** Monday 18 May from 12.30pm in the Lecture Theatre, Education Centre
- **WGH:** Tuesday 19 May from 12.30pm in the Boardroom

Introduced by a member of the Executive team, each briefing is tailored to the specific site, providing relevant local updates alongside the opportunity to ask questions and connect with colleagues. This round will include updates from our Estates teams on current and upcoming work across our sites, as well as an overview of the support available from Chaplaincy for both patients and colleagues. We will also share key themes and insights from the latest NHS Staff Survey, including what we've heard from you and how this is shaping our next steps. In addition, colleagues will hear from the Improvement team about developments planned over the next 12 months.

All colleagues are encouraged to attend if they are able to and we would appreciate any feedback to help us continue to improve how we engage with teams.

Louise Jones

Director of Communications and Engagement

Changes to park and ride from M6 to Junction 34 to the RLI from 6 July 2026

As you will be aware, we have faced a significant financial challenge over the last year. Thanks to you and your teams, we have made significant progress in reducing our overall overspend from over £80m four years ago to £6.1m at the end of March 2026, but we still have a substantial savings challenge to hit the required break even position by March 2027. To support us to achieve this, we have continued to review all areas of spend across every team and department to see where we can make savings that do not have an impact on patient care.

Part of this review has looked at transport costs, including what we pay for the Park and Ride service in Lancaster. The Trust currently funds an additional bus that stops close to the RLI regularly at no cost to colleagues. At most, around 27 colleagues use this service each day, which is extremely low compared with the cost to the Trust of £190,000 a year. After careful consideration and reviewing how much it costs to fund the service compared to how much it is used, we have made the difficult decision to stop funding this additional service. Read the full update here: [Changes to park and ride from M6 to Junction 34 to the RLI from 6 July 2026](#).

Terrorism threat level in UK raised to severe

Please note that following an attack in London, the terrorism threat level in the UK has risen to 'severe', indicating an attack is 'highly likely'. Colleagues can find more information at the MI5 website here: [Terrorism threat levels](#).

It is very important that all wards and departments review their local lockdown and local security policies and where possible, test them locally. If any wards or departments are concerned about their current arrangements or would like further advice, please do not hesitate to contact the Emergency Planning Team via UHMB.EPRR@mbht.nhs.uk. More information and support for colleagues affected by the attacks in London on 29 April 2026 can be found here: [Terrorism threat level in UK raised to severe](#).



WGH Endoscopy Unit awarded JAG accreditation

A big congratulations to our Westmorland General Hospital (WGH) Endoscopy Unit, which has received Joint Advisory Group (JAG) accreditation in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. This accolade is considered the 'Gold Standard' for endoscopy services in the UK. To meet the criteria, the team has shown that it meets rigorous standards for clinical quality, patient safety and service delivery, ensuring high-quality, patient-centred care.

Due to the accreditation, the team is able to provide the national Bowel Screening Programme at WGH, which has been in place since 2008.

The WGH team will undergo an annual review to monitor their progress. They will also undergo another JAG review in five years to ensure that sustainability and best practice are being adhered to. Read the full story here: [Westmorland General Hospital Endoscopy Unit awarded JAG accreditation.](#)

CEO all-colleague briefing takes place on Thursday 14 May

The next CEO all-colleague briefing will take place on Thursday 14 May 2026, at 10am-11am via MS Teams. This will be Steve Williamson's first time leading the session as Chief Executive.

The briefing is a great opportunity for colleagues to hear the latest key updates about our Trust. You will find the link to join the session in your calendar, or you can click here: [Join the meeting here.](#)

First participant recruited to colorectal cancer prevention study

We are delighted to share that the Research Department has successfully recruited its first participant to the COLOPREVENT study - an exciting milestone for our team and an important step forward in advancing colorectal cancer prevention research.

COLOPREVENT is a large UK-wide clinical trial, led at our Trust by Mr Vijay Gangalam, investigating new ways to prevent bowel cancer. Read the full story here: [First participant recruited to colorectal cancer prevention study.](#)

Clinical Operational Standards (COS) – Now live across the Trust

The Clinical Operational Standards (COS) have now been implemented across UHMBT from 9 February 2026, following extensive engagement with clinical teams through the Clinical Summit and wider consultation. The standards have been shared widely with staff and are now visible at key clinical interface areas (ED, AMU, SDEC and wards) through laminated summary cards to support day-to-day practice and improve patient flow, timely review and clinical decision-making.

Read the full update here: [Clinical Operational Standards \(COS\) – Now live across the Trust.](#) A poster detailing how staff can provide feedback can be found here: [COS feedback Poster v7.pdf.](#)



Update: Review of neonatal services in the North West

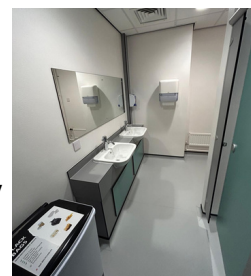
Staff engagement to inform a regional review of neonatal services launched earlier this year, with a series of virtual briefing sessions during January and February and a staff questionnaire, which closed on Friday 6 March.

The review, which is exploring how neonatal services can be improved to be sustainable for the future, is being led by NHS England in the North West and the three ICBs in the region, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside, NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria and NHS Greater Manchester. Frequently asked questions that were raised during the staff sessions are now available to view on the regional web page: [NHS England — North West » Improving neonatal services in the North West: information for staff](#). Read the full update here: [Update: Review of neonatal services in the North West](#).

Newly refurbished changing facilities now open at Westmorland General Hospital

Colleagues at Westmorland General Hospital are now benefiting from newly refurbished changing facilities, following a £153,000 investment from NHS Charities Together.

The funding, awarded to Bay Hospitals Charity through the Stage 3 Covid-19 Recovery Grant, is part of a wider programme focused on supporting staff health, wellbeing and recovery across the Trust. Improving the changing facilities at WGH was identified as a key priority. Read the full story here: [Newly refurbished changing facilities now open at Westmorland General Hospital](#).



Installation of new CT scanner at Furness General Hospital in Barrow now complete

The installation of the new CT scanner at Furness General Hospital (FGH) in Barrow is now complete. The scanner is in clinical use, with staff continuing to undertake training. During this period, all inpatients will be scanned on the new CT scanner located within the Radiology Department.

The mobile CT scanner situated in the lower car park will remain on site until Friday 8 May, where it will continue to scan outpatients. For all CT enquiries, please contact extension 51080. All other temporary numbers will remain monitored until Friday 8 May, after which they will no longer be in use. We would like to thank all teams for their support throughout this project. We recognise the impact that moving inpatients to the mobile scanner has had, and we are very grateful for everyone's cooperation and flexibility.

Lancashire and South Cumbria Pathology Service Microbiology update

Changes to Urine Microscopy, Culture and Sensitivity (MC&S) Testing: Following a successful verification, Lancashire and South Cumbria Pathology Service is pleased to announce that as of Tuesday 12 May 2026, all urine samples sent to the Royal Lancaster Infirmary and Furness General Hospital for Microscopy, Culture and Sensitivity (MC&S) will be processed through an automated urine microscopy platform. Read the full update here: [Lancashire and South Cumbria Pathology Service Microbiology update](#).



NHS IMPACT Operational Improvement Training

New local training dates available soon

53 UHMBT colleagues have already attended the national CPD accredited NHS IMPACT Operational Improvement Training's core module hosted by the Trust locally. The fifth face-to-face session ran on Friday, and the sixth Kendal session on 19 May is fully booked. New local dates (16/06/26 Kendal Leisure Centre; 25/06/26 Furness General Hospital; 10/07/26 Royal Lancaster Infirmary) will be added to the NHS IMPACT learning platform: <https://www.nhs-impact.co.uk/>.

The core module is designed to support learners to:

- Build **thriving teams** where people have autonomy, feel belonging and are committed to operational excellence and performance improvement to make healthcare better for patients.
- Identify, frame and **understand problems** within the system.
- Apply **practical approaches** to improve patient care, operational performance and productivity within the system.
- **Sustain and embed improvement** to patient care, operational performance and productivity.

The training is aimed at Band 6 to 8a healthcare provider staff but is open to anyone who wants to strengthen their operational skills. Once you've attended the Core Module session you can access virtual half-day pathway modules: Elective, Urgent and Emergency Care, Cancer, Outpatients, Theatres, Mental Health and Diagnostics.

If you are interested in attending this free training register and book onto 'core module' training once the new dates are live via <https://www.nhs-impact.co.uk/>. We will be contacting anyone who has previously registered and yet to attend a session as soon as the sessions go live. If you've not registered, register now and if the sessions aren't live, we will inform you as soon as they are. If you have any issues with the platform/queries, please contact improvement.redesign@mbht.nhs.uk.

You can also start or refresh your QI knowledge journey today through **Improving Together** - a quick e-learning course that aims to improve your basic knowledge of quality improvement (QI) and how to use it in the Trust. Improving Together **is for ALL colleagues** in all roles in the Trust. You can **add it to your TMS today** from the 'Improvement and Redesign' section in the Course Catalogue. For information about how you can improve your services visit the [Hive Improvement Centre](#). Remember... **Quality Improvement is everyone's business.**

Survey

- **Reminder: Two-minute Health Inequalities Survey – please complete!** The UHMBT Public Health team would be very grateful if you could take just two minutes to complete a short, anonymous survey exploring your views on health inequalities and wider determinants of health. The survey will close on 22 May 2026.

Awareness days

- **Mental Health Awareness Week (11-17 May 2026)** - Mental health is more than just a small part of our lives. It's connected to every little thing we do, every place we go and every person around us.
- **National Day for Staff Networks (13 May 2026)** - This is a day for shining a light on the importance of staff networks and the work they do, and recognising the multiple benefits that staff networks offer to both employees and organisations.
- **Ascension Day (14 May 2025)** - Wishing all of our colleagues, patients and people celebrating across Morecambe Bay a very happy and healthy Ascension Day!
- **Vesak Day (15/16 May 2026)** - dependent on full moon timing) - Happy Vesak Day to all of our colleagues, patients and communities celebrating!
- **International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia & Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) (17 May 2026)** - Today is IDAHOBIT, or International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia 🌈 Today, and every day, we are proud to support our LGBT+ colleagues, patients and communities.



Events and training

Ready for Change

If you feel unsure about changes, it's affecting how you feel about work or know you struggle with change, Ready for Change may help. The session is designed to give you space to reflect and consider your responses to change. All the tools and ideas that we discuss can be applied to changes in and out of work.

We also have a hub of resources you can explore at any time that suits you: [Ready for Change hub](#). One colleague said: "Made me sit back and reflect on how I can approach current changes happening in my team so I can better support myself and others." Book now on TMS or email: learninganddevelopment@mbht.nhs.uk.

- **RLI colleagues: Training on Very Brief Advice for smoking cessation** - Smokefree Lancashire provide community smoking cessation support within Lancashire. They offer regular, free, one-hour training sessions on giving Very Brief Advice to people who smoke, including how to signpost to their service. [Click here to book](#).
- **Dementia Action Week Admiral Nurse Fundraiser** - Monday 18 May, 10am-11am, Main Entrance at Furness General Hospital. Information stand about the Admiral Nurse Service and Dementia. Cake stall and raffle. Funds for Dementia training equipment. Prizes include a signed Barrow AFC shirt, signed merchandise from Georgia Stanway, a chocolate bouquet, wine hamper, beauty hamper, Pandora bracelet.
- **Space to Breathe** - Time out days: 19 May, 15 July, and residential retreat: 30 June and 3 July. More details can be found at the following link: [Space to Breathe](#).
- **Music in May at WGH** - On Thursday 14 May and Thursday 21 May, a choir will be coming in to sing outside the chapel from 12.30pm-1.15pm.
- **Healthcare Transition Community of Practice** - Tuesday 7 July 2026, 9.30am-12.30pm or 1.30pm-4pm, Health Innovation Campus, Sir John Fisher Drive, Lancaster University, Lancaster, LA14AT. [Book here](#).
- **LUMEN Lite spring/summer series of online CPD talks hosted by Lancaster University Medical Education**.
- **Oral History project on hospital volunteering**.

Library and Knowledge Service

Please see the link below for access to the Library and Knowledge Service website and online resources. If you have any queries contact us via e-mail at library@mbht.nhs.uk. [Library and knowledge services :: University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust \(uhmb.nhs.uk\)](#).

Trust Procedural Document Library

Please see the link below for procedural documents updated in the last 30 days. If you have any queries contact policy.coordinator@mbht.nhs.uk. [Trust Procedural Document Library - Documents Updated in the Last 30 Days](#)

Have you won the Bay Hospitals Charity Lottery this week?

This week's winning numbers are:

Draw date: Friday 8 May 2026

0 7 6 9 8 2

Play the Bay Hospitals Charity Lottery online now!

Visit www.bayhospitalscharity.org/lottery/

and help make a lotto difference across Morecambe Bay Hospitals.

