

**Petition to the NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Kent County  
Council by the League of Friends of Edenbridge and District War  
Memorial Hospital**

**Subject of the Petition**

1. On May 24 the West Kent Primary Care Trust Board announced that the Minor Injury Unit (MIU) at Edenbridge Hospital should be renamed as a treatment clinic with immediate effect for safety reasons;
2. The PCT should consult on the closure of the Treatment Clinic, currently the MIU
3. The PCT should provide a redressing clinic for 1 to 2 days a week for existing patients until such time as current patients are discharged when it should cease; and
4. That new redressing patients are redirected to other services.

In subsequent discussion with the PCT it is confirmed that the proposed new Treatment Clinic will continue to function as the present Minor Injuries Unit during the consultation period commencing July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Thus the only substantive change during the consultation period is one of name but not of function. This change is recommended by the PCT Board on grounds of the alleged safety of the patients.

The patients are alleged to be at risk because the number of patients seen is deemed to be too low to maintain the competence of the Emergency Nurse Practitioners who staff the unit.

**The grounds for objection to the name change before the consultation period**

1. If the unit continues to function as previously during the consultation period there is no reason to change the name.
2. The present Minor Injury Unit has a 100% safety record and has been running as a nurse led unit since 1998. There has never been a complaint from the public.
3. The Consultant Surgeon in clinical charge is very supportive of the unit, visits weekly to see patients and staff and carries out a regular audit of the work.
4. No arguments of substance have been advanced to justify the renaming of the unit without due consultation.
5. The inevitable consequence of a change of name without consultation will lead members of the public to believe that the Minor Injury Unit has ceased to exist. This could adversely affect the availability and operation of the unit during the consultation period.
6. A proper consultation can only take place in relation to the entirety of the Board's decisions and not part only.
7. The name should not be changed prior to consultation taking place.

Dr Andrew Russell, Chairman, League of Friends

June 5 2007