



A&E Closure Assurance Programme:

**Interim Assessment (EPRR) –
The North West London Hospitals NHS
Trust**

This interim assessment forms part of the on-going joint assurance process that NHS England (London) and the National Trust Development Authority (NTDA) have put in place with regard to the respective functions and responsibilities of each organisation.

This advisory note supports NHS England's statutory duty to ensure that all providers of NHS funded care are prepared to respond to and recover from emergencies. The Emergency Preparedness Resilience and Response (EPRR) assurance does not consider the clinical rationale or final decision to close, only the preparedness of the Trust at this stage of the process.

This assessment and its accompanying recommendations are based on the evidence which was provided by the Trust between 30th June and 10th July, and is intended to inform the on-going preparations. In making this assessment, the progress made to date is acknowledged as work in progress.

Further assurance on the state of readiness for closure as the planning progresses including on how these recommendations have been taken forward, will be sought over the period between this assessment and the date of closure, September 10th. Post closure assurance will be sought through the annual EPRR Safe Systems Assurance process which assesses the Trust's overall levels of emergency preparedness against the National EPRR Core Standards.

The EPRR assurance domain of the joint assurance process reviewed four areas;

1. Business Continuity
2. Major Incident Response
3. Surge Management
4. Command & Control

The Trust supplied revised copies of the Emergency and Business Continuity Plans and this evidence was further supported by direct positive discussions between the EPRR Lead Manager for the North West London area from NHS England (London) and the Trust Emergency Planning Manager.

Although some areas of development were noted (table 1) sufficient assurance has been obtained at this point in the programme to confirm that the Trust is on course to deliver the necessary revisions to their incident response procedures.

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Assurance Criteria	
1. Business Continuity	
2. Surge Management	
3. Major Incident Response	
4. Command and Control	
Assurance Sub Criteria	
1. All Business Continuity Plans reflect changes in configuration of service delivery units	
2. All internal surge management plans to reflect changes in configuration of services including procedures for escalation across sites	
3. Major Incident Plans to reflect changes in capability	
4. Trust wide Command and Control Procedures to reflect changes in service provision	
Overall Assessment of Preparedness	
AMBER – Partially met/More information required/Work is in progress	
Recommendations	
North West London Hospital Trust needs to develop a clear delivery plan for the training, testing and exercising to validate the changes to their revised Emergency Response and Business Continuity Plans.	

Table 1

