

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Midlands Today (BBC)
Date of broadcast	13 th October 2014
Reporter	Michele Paduano
Press enquiry	Could the Trust tell Midlands Today how many elective (planned) operations and outpatient appointments will have to be cancelled and, any other foreseen consequences, because of the industrial action on Monday 13 th October 2014?
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>With public sector industrial action planned for Monday 13th October 2014 The Dudley Group has been working closely with senior managers and front line staff to minimise disruption for patients.</p> <p>Although we anticipate some staff will be taking strike actions between 7am and 11am on the 13th, we believe this will have limited impact on patients.</p> <p>Essential services, such as emergency surgery, emergency medicine and urgent cancer services will be running as normal. Phlebotomy (blood tests) at Russells Hall Hospital and Corbett Outpatients Centre will also continue as normal.</p> <p>Women who are in labour during the strike period will see no change to their care and will give birth as usual, whether in hospital on our delivery suite or Midwifery-led Unit, or at home if they have chosen a home birth.</p> <p>We have postponed three morning day-case lists which will affect 13 patients. All patients affected have been contacted and offered alternative appointments in the future.</p> <p>Patients booked into our dental outpatient services before 11am on the day of industrial action have also been contacted and had their appointments rescheduled. We apologise for any inconvenience caused to patients whose procedures have been rescheduled.</p>	

However, it is very important for patients who have not been contacted by hospital staff to attend their appointments at Russells Hall Hospital, and Corbett and Guest outpatient centres as normal.

Patients are asked to think twice before turning up at the Accident and Emergency Department at Russells Hall Hospital during the strike period unless they are facing a real emergency or life- threatening condition. They are asked instead to go to their walk-in centre, GP or visit their local pharmacist.

We will continue to review the situation and make further arrangements as necessary.