



Royal Free London
North Mid



Bringing together North Mid and the Royal Free London

Our proposed merger

After several years of closer working, we are planning to come together as one NHS organisation to go further and faster in improving services for patients and the health of our local community.

We will continue to provide the same local services at our hospitals and in the community, while working together to ensure that all our patients receive high standards of care, no matter where they live.

By coming together as one, we expect to deliver more joined up services for patients, reduced waiting times and more support to keep people healthy.

Patients benefits



Reduced waiting times



Improved access to specialist care locally



Better joined-up community services



More opportunities to take part in research



More targeted screening and early intervention services

Patient and public event

Find out more about our merger plans and tell us about the improvements you'd like to see. Join our public and patient event.

When: 20 November 2024,
10am to 12pm.

Where: Dugdale Arts Centre,
39 London Rd, London,
Enfield EN2 6DS

To register: Email
rf-tr.northmid@nhs.net

Spaces are limited so book early to request a place. Light refreshments will be provided.

Our oncology vision

In north central London the number of people with cancer is rising and is expected to increase 42% by 2030 with the Royal Free London currently caring for the largest number of patients with suspected cancer in London. At North Mid, the picture is similar. Meeting our cancer targets is a challenge against this backdrop.

Oncology services are a critical part of the cancer pathway, providing treatments such as radiotherapy and chemotherapy. Through the merger we can change how we work to provide care where it is needed the most, reducing time to treatment and ensuring all our patients can access the latest, most effective advances in cancer care, no matter where they live.



What you can expect

- increased access to specialist advice and cancer treatments
- more care closer to home
- greater opportunities to take part in clinical trials and research



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“We have high levels of expertise and excellence at both Royal Free London and North Mid. By bringing our work together we can improve the patient experience with more care closer to home for patients where possible, while at the same time ensuring that we have seamless pathways that ease a patient’s journey.”

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Bernie Byrne, associate director of nursing for cancer, palliative care and end of life, and Macmillan trust lead cancer nurse, North Mid

Our colorectal surgery vision

We will work to establish ourselves as a bowel cancer treatment centre focused on innovation through the use of robotic technology, early screening and 24/7 specialist care close to home.

Through our current partnership some North Mid patients already have their colorectal surgery at the RFL. However, by removing organisational barriers, such as different processes and systems, we can reduce the time people have to wait between diagnosis and treatment and improve outcomes by increasing the numbers of patients who are diagnosed early.

What you can expect

- more care closer to home
- more specialist nursing care, with a focus on recovery, so you can go home from hospital earlier
- greater opportunities to take part in clinical trials and research



“The merger of our colorectal cancer services will enable us to run a single, combined colorectal cancer multi-disciplinary team meeting, with more efficient and consistent decision-making. For North Mid patients, we hope this will enable us to halve the time to treatment from four to six weeks to two to three.”



Mr Reza Mirnezami, consultant colorectal surgeon and clinical lead for colorectal surgery, RFL



Our planned surgery vision

We know from our joint work to establish the elective orthopaedic centre at Chase Farm Hospital in 2021 that separating planned, non-complex surgery from emergency treatment can be hugely effective in reducing waiting times and preventing cancellations.

We will draw on the success of our existing surgical hubs to create a network of centres of surgical excellence. We will create additional hubs for general surgery, gynaecology, urology and ear, nose and throat where we know we have a large number of patients needing planned procedures. Here patients will be seen more quickly for common procedures and receive consistently excellent care.



What you can expect

- outpatient appointments at whichever of our hospitals is closest to your home
- less risk of surgery being cancelled
- shorter hospital stays



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“The merger enables us to develop surgical hubs at pace, providing greater equity of access to elective surgery to treat patients quicker. Through greater standardisation of our patient pathways, we also expect to improve the patient outcomes and their overall experience.”

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Dr Nathalie Stevenson,
consultant in intensive care
and anaesthetics and clinical
lead for surgical hubs

Our research vision

Evidence from across the world shows that hospitals that undertake research provide better care and outcomes overall. By tackling the current inequalities in access to research trials, where legal and regulatory barriers limit the collaboration that is possible at present, we will enable greater access to potentially life-changing innovative treatments for North Mid patients and a more diverse patient base for RFL trials.

Our merger will open up different areas for potential research, such as sickle cell and thalassemia, heart failure, lupus, liver and renal disease, urgent and critical care and older people's health.

What you can expect

- more choice of trial opportunities
- earlier access to new drugs and interventions
- more clinical trials designed to meet the needs of local patients
- service improvements driven through our greater understanding of our population's health



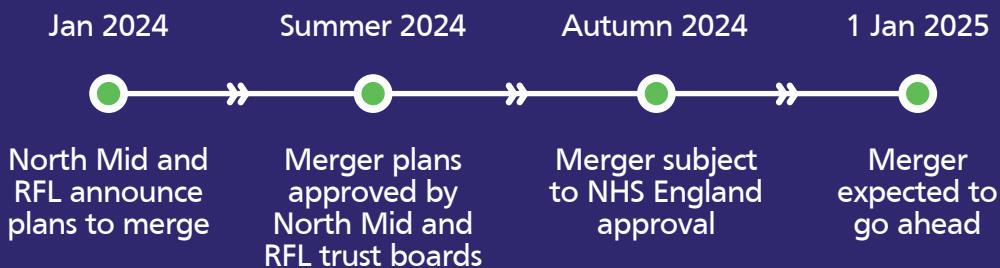
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“The merger of the Royal Free London and North Mid will provide a large and diverse population helping to accelerate medical research and tackle health inequalities.”

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Dr Andrew Millar, consultant gastroenterologist and hepatologist, North Mid





Frequently asked questions

What does it mean for patients?

Our hospitals and community teams will continue to provide the same local services. At North Mid, these include A&E, maternity, intensive care, paediatrics, acute surgery, acute medicine and community services. There are also no plans to change the way routine care is currently provided at the RFL's existing hospitals — Barnet Hospital, Chase Farm Hospital and the Royal Free Hospital — if North Mid joins the group.

Why have you decided to merge now?

The way healthcare is provided has changed significantly in recent years. Local health and care partners are increasingly working together. Given the scale of challenge we face, and our shared aim of improving the health of our local communities, we believe that joining together will enable us to go further and faster in achieving our ambitions.

What will be the financial impact?

Our plans are not about cutting costs, although they will enable us to be more efficient in our use of resources and any savings made will be retained within the organisation to be reinvested in further improved services.

Will I have to travel further for my care?

As our plans do not currently involve any significant change to where the vast majority of patients would access their routine care, there will be minimal impact on patient travel.

Have your plans been finalised?

In the summer both organisations approved the plans for merger. Subject to NHS England and Secretary of State approval, we plan to bring our organisations together on 1 January 2025.



Become a member of the RFL and help make a difference

As an NHS foundation trust, the RFL has patient, public and staff members. By becoming a member, you'll be kept up to date with the latest developments and news from all our hospitals and community services and be invited to events to increase your understanding of local health services.

Members elect a council of governors to hold members of the board to account. Following merger, we will expand our council of governors, with new elections, to ensure the voices of North Mid communities are included.

Why join?

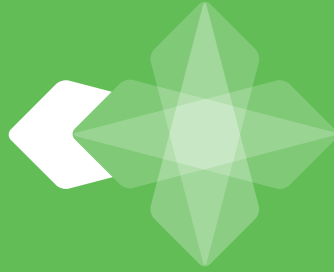
You can become a member of the Royal Free London if you live in England, are aged 16 or over, or are a carer for a patient who is aged under 16. It's free to become a member, and you will:

- be able to stand for election as a governor of the enlarged RFL
- elect a council of governors to represent your interests
- receive monthly membership updates
- be invited to events and the annual members' meeting

You can be involved as much or as little as you like — it's up to you!

Learn more at

www.royalfree.nhs.uk/about-us/become-member-our-trust



Royal Free London North Mid

For more information

Visit [www.northmid.nhs.uk/
our-partnership-royal-free-
london](http://www.northmid.nhs.uk/our-partnership-royal-free-london)

Call 020 7794 0500 ext 35735

Email rf-tr.northmid@nhs.net

Alternative formats

If you need this leaflet in another format – for example Braille, a language other than English or audio – please contact us.

This leaflet was produced by North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust and Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.