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NHS 70

2018

2017

News

Floods 2015

Social media

Picture library

Video library

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Cumbrian team wins top award for dermatology services

[Homepage](#) » [News](#) » [Cumbrian team wins top award for dermatology services](#)

Cumbrian team wins top award for dermatology services

Posted on Thursday 8th January 2015

Cumbria Medical Services NHS has won 'Clinical Team of the Year for Dermatology' at the prestigious National General Practice Awards held in London on Thursday 20 November.

The awards aim to highlight the excellent and innovative work that is carried out by health care professionals to improve patient care across the UK.

The team were also finalists in the 'Practice Manager of the Year' and the 'Innovators of the Year' categories, out of hundreds of entries.

Manager Pauline Stuart said she was honoured and thrilled to receive the award which was recognition for the hard work and dedication of all the team members.

Dr Fayyaz Chaudhri from Cockermouth and Dr Martin White from Penrith set up Cumbria Medical Services NHS in July 2013 after leaving their GP practices to devote more time to developing community dermatology and minor surgery services. Their aim was to provide specialist services in a community setting without the need to travel long distances for care.

A full range of services are available including hernia repair, carpal tunnel release, vasectomies and skin cancer surgery all under local anaesthetic. Waiting times are low with most patients being seen within four to six weeks and much sooner if necessary.

Over the past year the service has grown considerably, employing five consultants and three GP specialists. Clinics take place at eight venues across Cumbria utilising the excellent facilities of the community hospitals and GP surgeries.

Dr Chaudri, Cumbria Medical Services NHS, said: "We are very pleased to have received this award which recognises the hard work of the whole team. A lot of work and co-ordination has gone into delivering this service at so many sites and patient feedback has been very encouraging. We hope to continue to develop services closer to home and wish to thank the various practices and community hospitals for accommodating us."

George Moncrieff, the Chair of the Dermatology Council for England, headed the judging panel and commented on the passion and commitment shown to providing an excellent service for patients and was very impressed with the accolades in the patient feedback.

NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) commission the service through St Pauls Medical Centre in Carlisle and it echoes the changes heralded in the NHS Five Year Forward Plan for more care to be provided in the community and the breaking down of the artificial boundaries between hospitals and primary care.

Medical Director for NHS Cumbria CCG, David Rogers said: "I am really pleased to see such an innovative local service recognised in a positive way and at a national level. This award is really important for the community as it confirms the service is hugely successful with great benefits for patients not having too travel far to receive treatment. Well done to everyone involved for creating a valuable dermatology service for the people of Cumbria and for winning such well recognised award."

Ends

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