

# Vista signs agreements with Quinn and Vhi

Vista Primary Care, Ireland's leading primary healthcare campus for public and private patients, has announced that it has signed two new agreements to provide CT examinations to Quinn Healthcare members and MRI examinations to Vhi members. These new agreements follow on from Vista Primary Care's agreement with AVIVA health in August 2009 to provide MRI and CT

scans to its members.

Quinn Healthcare members covered by the arrangements with Vista Primary Care will be fully covered for outpatient CT Scans. Vhi members will be fully covered for outpatient MRI scans. Currently Aviva Healthcare members are fully covered for both MRI and CT scans. A direct payment facility has been put in place between Vista Primary Care and the health insurers.

Commenting on the agreements, Mr Ulick McEvaddy, Chairman of Vista, said: 'Since we opened our doors to patients in 2008, we have worked hard to be inclusive to as many public and private patients as possible. Traditionally, MRI and CT scans have been very challenging for obese and claustrophobic patients. Our MRI scanner was the first widebore MRI scanner in the country and our CT scanner is

uniquely capable of producing 4D volume images.'

He continued: 'Our agreement with Aviva to provide MRI and CT scans to members has worked extremely well since August 2009, and we are delighted to have reached agreements with Quinn Healthcare to provide CT scans to its members, and with Vhi Healthcare to provide MRI scans to its members.'

# Park West Clinic accredited by CHKS for 'high standards'

As Park West Clinic approaches its 5th year in operation it is also celebrating receiving national recognition for the high standard of care it delivers to its patients, the company stated.

Caspe Healthcare Knowledge Systems (CHKS) recently conducted a two-day audit of activities and operations in park west clinic and awarded both accreditation to HIQA standards and certification to ISO 9001: 2008.

CHKS is a world wide accreditation and credentialing body and is the UK's leading independent provider of healthcare intelligence and quality improvement services. Their accreditation services are recognised by both ISQua (International Society in Quality in Healthcare) and certified by UKAS (UK accreditation services).

In December 2009, surveyors from CHKS visited the clinic for two days and analysed every aspect of Park West Clinic from a patient perspective, health and safety and quality perspective.

'They noted the clinic started with high standards and working practices, stating 'it is easier to ensure high standards from the beginning rather than having to introduce them.

'They observed that 'the structures

put in place encompass both risk management and clinical governance very well.'

The consistent and sustained effort by Park West Clinic in pursuing continuous quality improvement and attention to recording, measuring and responding to issues underpinned this excellent award and it is a testament to the dedicated services the clinic provides, said Dr Ahmed Salman, medical director.

Park West Clinic is driven by a combination of vision and energy to provide a superior quality of care to its service users.

CHKS commended 'the strong leadership', with well-documented roles and responsibilities with good communication, sharing and learning when problems are identified or changes proposed. They further commented on the 'commitment of the staff and that the ongoing culture of training and development, inherent in the clinic, is enthusiastically embraced by the staff'.

The CHKS awards committee stated: 'The environment and facilities within the clinic are excellent and especially noteworthy is the one-to-one nursing in the immediate post-operative period.' They also stated the 'facilities and equipment provided are first

class and expense has not been spared when the clinic was established.'

When opening, Park West Clinic's goal was to be unique and innovative and develop a new healthcare model, the result of which is that the clinic is the first elective day surgery clinic of its kind in Ireland, committed to providing a caring environment and the best in medical expertise, and striving to deliver cost effective, superior quality healthcare. It has secured agreement for patient cover with Quinn Healthcare and Hibernian Aviva.

'The hospital comprises state of the art, high-tech hospital design, built and equipped to the highest clinical and technical specialities and supported by two theatres and a six-bed recovery unit,' said Dr Salman. 'It offers a range of specialist day surgery services and facilities, providing cutting edge developments and a

superior level of care.'

The specialities incorporated in Park West Clinic include orthopaedics, gynaecology, ophthalmology, vascular specialist, plastics, dermatology, dentistry and general surgery.

'There has been much work and great vision which has come to fruition,' said Dr Salman.

The awards committee congratulated the clinic and all its members of staff on achieving the awards as 'they reflect the continuing commitment to quality improvement'.

To enquire further about the facilities available at Park West Clinic, please contact Mr Andrew Rittweger, General Manager, Park West Clinic, Park West Business Park, Unit 2B, Block 71, Nangor Road, Dublin 12 on 01 612 0551 or email: [Andrew@parkwestclinic.ie](mailto:Andrew@parkwestclinic.ie).



## Park West Clinic

# Onbrez demonstrates 24-hr symptom control for COPD patients

Novartis has launched Onbrez (Indacaterol) as a new once-daily maintenance bronchodilator in adult patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). This follows European approval, which was received in December (2009).

Onbrez, containing the active ingredient indacaterol maleate, is the first new inhaled compound for the treatment of COPD to be made available for EU patients in seven years. Additionally, it is the first and only treatment to demonstrate in clinical studies both 24-hour bronchodilation and a rapid onset of action within five minutes of inhalation.

'The trial results for Onbrez show greater improvements in lung function, breathlessness and quality of life together with a reduction in COPD exacerbations,' said Dr Tim McDonnell, consultant respiratory physician, St Vincent's Hospital. 'This provides a valuable new treatment option for Irish doctors and their pa-

tients enabling better symptom control which will greatly help people with COPD maintain active and productive lives despite the condition.'

COPD is the most prevalent respiratory disease in adults, affecting 440,000 Irish adults, of which only half are diagnosed, and the majority of whom are over the age of 57. COPD impairs lung function resulting in chronic breathlessness. This leads to a profound, negative impact on patients' ability to work and support families. Ireland's death rate from respiratory disease is over twice the EU average with COPD being a major contributor to these deaths, said Novartis.

The EC based its approval of Onbrez on an extensive clinical trial programme with data from over 6,000 patients. This data included pivotal Phase III results showing Onbrez significantly improved lung function and provided clinically relevant improvement in symptoms of breathlessness compared to tiotropium. Recent data presented at the American College of Chest Physicians

(ACCP) Chest Conference showed once-daily Onbrez also achieved significant improvements in lung function compared to twice-daily salmeterol. In addition, Onbrez provided better health status and improved breathlessness compared with salmeterol, said Novartis.

Onbrez has shown good overall safety and tolerability, which is comparable to placebo and current treatments. The most common adverse drug reactions were nasopharyngitis, cough, upper respiratory tract infection, and headache. These were in the vast majority mild or moderate and became less frequent as treatment was continued. Onbrez is available in 150mcg and 300mcg strengths and represents a significant cost saving compared to the standard treatment for COPD in Ireland. 'Given the considerable health burden arising from COPD, the Irish Thoracic Society (ITS) welcomes any new therapies which help to alleviate breathlessness and improve quality of life in patients with this disease,' said Dr Terry O'Connor, president, Irish Thoracic Society.