

# New vascular clinic will save patients hours in travel time

A NEW vascular clinic has opened in Longridge which is set to save patients hours in travel time.

It will be run by East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust and it will allow patients to get quicker diagnosis and treatment for any vascular problems.

It comes following a major regional re-organisation of vascular services in Lancashire and Cumbria, as East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust was designated as a Vas-

cular Centre of Excellence and the clinic will run out of Berry Lane Medical Centre on Berry Lane. The service aims to improve pathways and accessibility for patients who require treatment for varicose veins, poor blood supply and circulation problems to the legs and carotid artery surgery relating to strokes.

Mark O'Donnell, consultant vascular surgeon at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust who runs the Longridge clinic, said: "This local facility

has improved waiting times for patients and allowed them to get treatment more quickly than first anticipated. This clinic means that we can improve early identification and intervention which will result in improved outcomes for patients who should now be able to receive advice or treatment at an earlier stage in their pathway."

Edward Weyer, from Preston, was the first patient to visit the new clinic and praised the "excellent service".