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Statement attributable to Clinical Director for Unscheduled Care Dr Suzanne Wyatt:

“Over the past couple of days increasing numbers of people have attended the Emergency Unit at the University Hospital of Wales with concerns about swine flu and with minor symptoms. This is against all current public health advice. Our staff are currently screening patients at the door of the Unit to identify patients who are attending because of these concerns. Within the department, all precautions are taken to protect staff and patients from a possible spread of infection, and we are following recognised guidance.

“People with flu-like symptoms should not go to their A&E, local GP or pharmacy in case they spread the virus to others. Such visits cause undue pressure and potential delay for other patients who are in need of emergency services.

“However I want to repeat the Chief Medical Officer’s advice: if people have flu-like symptoms, they should stay at home and check their symptoms on the NHS website at www.nhs.uk or phone the swine flu information line on 0800 1 513 513. If the symptoms are causing concern, or people are in an at risk group such as those with chronic conditions, children under 5 or pregnant women, they should phone NHS Direct on 0845 46 47 or phone their GP who will assess their symptoms and provide appropriate advice.”

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For more information contact:

Marie Concannon

Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust

T: 029 2074 6381

E: marie.concannon@cardiffandvale.wales.nhs.uk