Major new extension of local hospitals
on track to open 2016

The new Combined Assessment Unit (CAU) being built at University Hospital Crosshouse is on target to open in spring 2016.

Bam Construction started work on the CAU on Monday 30 June 2014. It is being built alongside the existing Emergency Department and will include 35 en-suite bedrooms, as well as new patient assessment and ambulatory care areas. The unit will provide the physical environment needed to allow patients to be rapidly assessed and either discharged safely or admitted to a specialty ward for further care and treatment.

Construction of the CAU is part of the Building for Better Care programme, a major development to provide new fit-for-purpose facilities at the 'front doors' of University Hospitals Ayr and Crosshouse.

Building for Better Care is a £27.5 million investment to help provide safe, effective and person-centred urgent and emergency care for patients coming to hospital for anything other than a scheduled appointment.

The programme will also see construction of a new Emergency Department and CAU at University Hospital Ayr.

Mrs Liz Moore, Director for Acute Services, explains: “This is a fantastic development and work has been progressing well. The Combined Assessment Unit will mean improvements in the way patients are assessed, treated, admitted or safely discharged when they come to hospital in an emergency.”
The Combined Assessment Unit (CAU) will offer a new way of working for our staff and an improved experience for patients. Dr Crawford McGuffie, Associate Medical Director, adds: “Today, patients who come into hospital either by GP referral or who turn up themselves, come into hospital through the Emergency Department.

“They are frequently admitted until a decision can be made about their diagnosis and treatment. This puts pressure on the Emergency Departments and on the wards to which these patients are admitted. We recognise that this adds to the time people have to wait in the Emergency departments; and has an impact on the number of beds available in our hospitals.

“The focus of the CAU will be to provide rapid investigation and senior decision making, provided by a team made up of a range of disciplines – doctors, nurses, pharmacists and Allied Health Professions such as physiotherapists – working together.

“The aim will be to assess and treat patients in the appropriate environment and then either discharge them or admit them to a specialty ward if they need further care and treatment. The result will be that more patients can be assessed and discharged safely, with appropriate treatment and support, where previously they may have been admitted.”

Each unit will have:

- An area with trolley bays and consultation/treatment rooms.
- A Rapid Assessment area.
- A suite of single patient rooms.

Ends

Date of release: Monday 13 August 2015

Photograph: artist impression of the new CAU
Media information
For immediate use

Progress photos of the new building as it takes shape

For further media enquiries about this topic, please contact:

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