Twitter Thread by Dr Dominic Pimenta

Dr Dominic Pimenta
@DrDomPimenta

I came across this tweet from "Caroline Mansfield" about my local hospital being "empty".

So let's take a look:

First up, some warning signs:

1) A generic username, and another real Twitter account (I've emailed)

2) No registration with GCRN

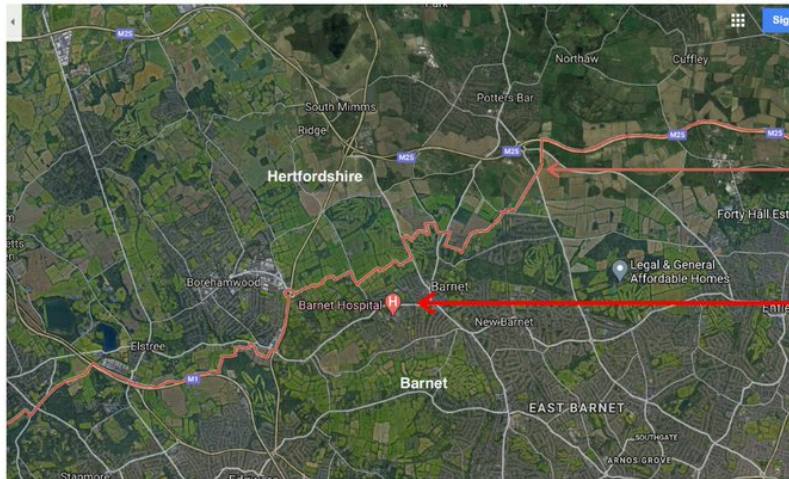**3) Only recently joined Twitter**

On to the Issues.

Issue No. 1: Barnet Hospital isn't actually IN Hertfordshire. It's in Barnet, with an Enfield postcode.

Which is confusing, but wouldn't be counted in Hertfordshire's hospital admission data.

Issue No. 2

Barnet is actually VERY busy with COVID cases, with 22% of our ENTIRE pandemic caseload in the LAST 7 DAYS ALONE

Source: https://t.co/IECfMo8FAK

Issue No. 3:

Barnet Hospital is seeing incredible pressures, the trust (The Royal Free Trust) has cancelled most non-urgent and routine work,

and as of 23rd Dec had admitted 244 patients with COVID, roughly half the peak of March, and climbing v. fast.

**COVID DENIAL DEBUNKING**

FOR REVIEW:

Caroline Mansfield @carolin10243705 · 19h
Just been up to Barnet Hospital because apparently Hertfordshire is having loads of hospital admissions. It's quiet as a mouse, A&E had 4 people in waiting area. Walked around inside - empty. Ambulance drivers outside in ambulances eating sandwiches. Yep, it's a pandemic alright!

611   3.7K   8.6K

ISSUE NUMBER 3:
BARNET HOSPITAL **IS** VERY BUSY

London NHS Trust Hospitals Begin Postponing Non-Urgent Care And Operations Due to Covid-19 Pressures.

Two of London's major NHS Trusts have begun postponing routine care and non-urgent operations due to Covid-19 pressures, as the capital faces a surge in cases. From Monday afternoon, the Royal Free London Trust have paused "all non-urgent, time-critical planned procedures/operations and out-patient services".

The trust (the whole organisation) has cancelled a lot of non-urgent appointments and operations.
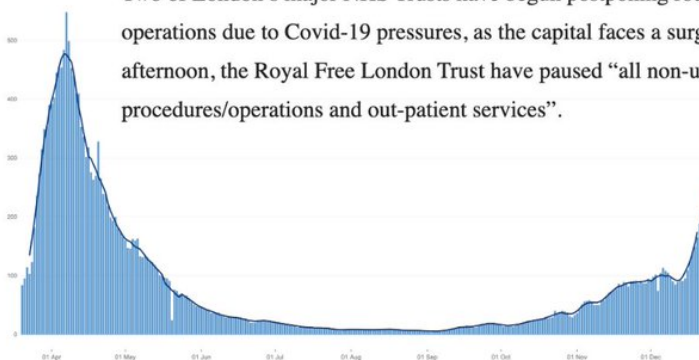
...and the trust currently has 244 patients admitted with COVID, around half the peak of the first wave and climbing fast.

@DrDomPimenta

Issue No. 4
Even busier is Intensive Care - the whole trust only has 57 beds (23 - Barnet & 34 at the Royal Free Hospital).

As of 23rd Dec, 40 of them were occupied by COVID patients. That's 70% of the ENTIRE CAPACITY used up by COVID ALONE.

Source: https://t.co/zGmMSuoywN
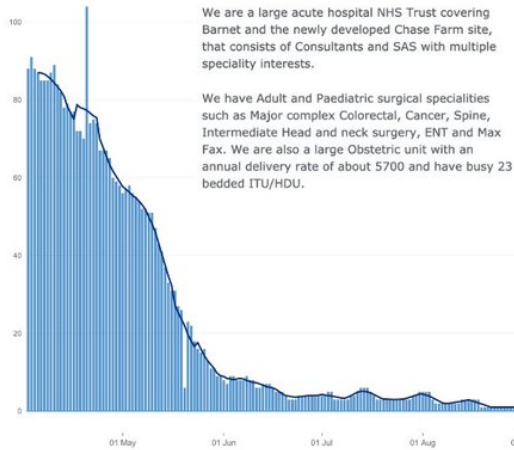
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals

We are a large acute hospital NHS Trust covering Barnet and the newly developed Chase Farm site, that consists of Consultants and SAS with multiple speciality interests.

We have Adult and Paediatric surgical specialities such as Major complex Colorectal, Cancer, Spine, Intermediate Head and neck surgery, ENT and Max Fax. We are also a large Obstetric unit with an annual delivery rate of about 5700 and have busy 23 bedded ITU/HDU.

Intensive care at the Royal Free Hospital

The ICU (intensive care unit) at the Royal Free Hospital comprises 34 intensive care beds. are admitted to ICU each year. The ICU beds are located in the three intensive therapy wa

THERE ARE ONLY **57 USUAL ICU BEDS** ACROSS THE TRUST (23 + 34)

AND **40 OF THEM** WERE OCCUPIED BY **COVID PATIENTS** ON 23RD DEC 2020, AND RISING.

@DrDomPimenta

Why is this a problem?

For every COVID patient in an ICU bed, another patient isn't - ICU takes routine complex operations, unwell ward patients, other emergencies and even transfers from other hospitals.

We can cancel operations, but can't stop the other unexpected patients.

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ISSUE NUMBER 4:
BARNET ICU **IS** VERY BUSY

WHO NEEDS AN ICU BED?

COMPLEX EXPECTED OPERATIONS

UNEXPECTED TRANSFERS FROM OTHER HOSPITALS

SINGLE ICU BED

UNEXPECTED UNWELL WARD PATIENTS

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UNEXPECTED EMERGENCIES
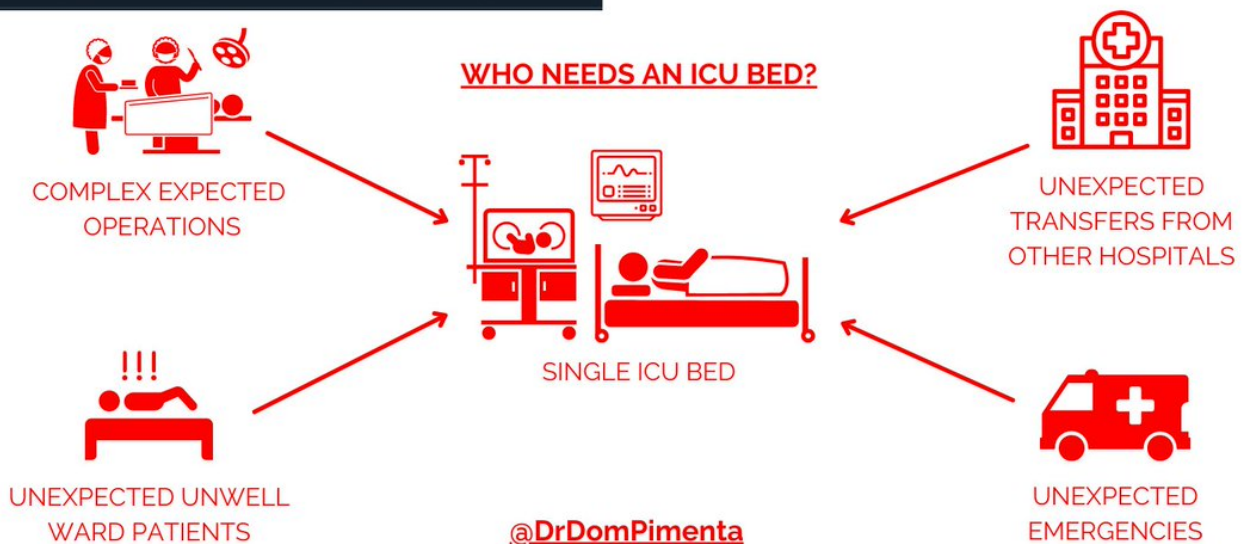
And if you need ICU but do not get ICU, unfortunately you will most likely die.

This is why the mortality for COVID shoots up when resources locally are exceeded. Like in Lombardy in the Spring.

Lastly, the ambulance service is the busiest it's EVER been in London, with more calls than the first wave in the past few weeks.

And if they are eating sandwiches in their cab, that's their break. In their vehicle. Think about that a little bit more.

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Covid-19: London Ambulance Service receives as many 999 calls as first wave
By Dr Faye Kirkland and Noel Titheradge
BBC News
1 day ago
Coronavirus pandemic

ISSUE NUMBER 5:

LONDON AMBULANCE IS THE BUSIEST ITS **EVER** BEEN IN THE PANDEMIC

AND YOU ARE WATCHING AMBULANCE DRIVERS HAVE A **BREAK**. IN THEIR AMBULANCE STILL.

@DrDomPimenta

This kind of COVID denialism is not just Internet rubbish, it's dangerous and real and led us in part to the disaster we are in right now.

Do not RT, even to trash it. Block, report and move on.

And as ever, hands, face, space, fresh air and please, stay at home. /end