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Media Release

Staff get on their bikes to support hospital unit

Four healthcare professionals from the Royal United Hospital are getting on their bikes for a challenging cycle ride to raise money to buy medical equipment for their unit.

Sister Rachel Chesterton, Nurse Tim Mills, Emergency Department Assistant Rowan Chesterton and Clinical Nursing Assistant Sarah Crew will be cycling 800 miles from St Malo in north west France to Montpellier in the south east of the country to raise at least £16,000 for the hospital's Medical Assessment Unit.

Money raised will be used to purchase two non-invasive ventilation machines, but if the group raise enough they plan to buy another two. Their sponsorship page can be found at www.justgiving.com/MAUcycle

Rachel says: "We plan to cycle around 60 miles a day for two weeks and we're all training hard for what will be a very gruelling challenge.

"Although it will be hard, it's something we're all keen to do as this equipment is much needed and will make a big difference to the patients we treat on the Medical Assessment Unit. This will allow us to use one machine for the two types of respiratory failure as opposed to the two we currently use. They will significantly improve the patient experience.

"We've already had donations from relatives of patients who have been on MAU who have told us they wanted to give us something because they were so pleased with the care we provided. We hope many people will dig deep to help us so that we can try to raise as much money for the unit as possible."

MAU is a busy acute unit where up to 40 patients a day are admitted for assessment and to start treatment every day. Patients in MAU often have very serious and complicated health issues, requiring urgent and highly skilled responses.

Patients are most likely to have been referred to MAU by their GP or by a doctor in the Emergency Department, or from clinics or Ambulatory Care, and stay for detailed clinical assessments and tests before going to the most appropriate clinical area, or being discharged home.