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Media Release

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RUH to receive extra funding for Emergency Department

The Royal United Hospital Bath has welcomed an announcement that it will receive substantial extra funding to help manage the impact of a year on year rise in attendances at its Emergency Department.

Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group announced yesterday that it would give the Trust £940,000 towards a number of initiatives.

Medical Director Dr Tim Craft said: "We welcome the announcement by the Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group of extra funding. Like other hospitals we have experienced continued year on year growth in the number of patients attending our Emergency Department.

"This funding will allow us to expand the number of consultants and provide very long hours of care throughout the week and at the weekend.

"It will also allow us to carry out earlier assessment of patients by a consultant, which will enable us to reduce the number of patients who actually need to be admitted to hospital.

"We will also be appointing more geriatricians to work with our Emergency Department staff who will be able to carry out rapid assessments of frail, elderly patients which will result in them receiving the best possible care in the most appropriate setting, which may not be a hospital but instead their own home.

"Patients also have a role to play in thinking whether an Emergency Department is the best place for them to go for care, and we would ask that they consider whether there is somewhere more appropriate for them to go for treatment if it is not an emergency."

The RUH asked for extra funding to support its response to the urgent care pressures experienced over the last year.

Along with the continuous rise in attendances to the Emergency Department, the hospital also deals with a higher than average number of acutely unwell patients, along with higher than average numbers of elderly patients.

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