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Communications Department
Tel: 01225 82 6282

RUHcommunications@nhs.net
www.ruh.nhs.uk

Media Release

Help keep your hospital Norovirus-free

Norovirus, a highly contagious infection is currently prevalent in the community and in other healthcare settings, and is also now on several wards at the Royal United Hospital and the support of the local community is vital if more wards are not to be put at risk:

Helen Blanchard, Director of Nursing & Midwifery at the RUH, says: “For most people Norovirus is an unpleasant but harmless illness, with symptoms passing in a matter of days. However, for more vulnerable and at risk groups the effects of the illness can be potentially more serious. This is why it is vital for you to help us to limit the spread of the infection within the hospital.

“We need the public to restrict their visits to the hospital and we are very grateful to people who are heeding our warning to stay away, however, despite public health messages on how to manage this virus, some patients and visitors are still coming into the RUH with symptoms and this is causing us problems. As a result it is affecting wards and patient areas. Anyone who has had – or who is currently experiencing – vomiting or diarrhoea must stay away from the hospital until they have been free of symptoms for at least 48 hours.

“Of course, we understand that visiting loved ones is very important; especially in cases where a patient may be acutely unwell. We endeavour, therefore, to consider visiting requests with discretion and compassion. But it helps us to care for your loved ones if you are able to consider whether your visit is strictly necessary or could wait.”

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