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Media Release

RUH leads in video technology

Video technology that makes intubation – the process of keeping a patient’s airway open to enable them to breathe during an operation – much safer, has been introduced for all routine procedures at the RUH.

Anaesthetists are now using a videolaryngoscope – a metal tool with an integral camera – whenever they place a breathing tube into a patient’s trachea to enable oxygen and other gases to pass into and out of the lungs.

Other hospitals use video-laryngoscopes only in extreme circumstances, but the RUH is now the first in the UK to provide the new equipment for all such procedures, whether routine or emergency in nature. They will be used in all areas of the hospital including operating theatres, the Intensive Care Unit and the Emergency Department.

Consultant Anaesthetist Tim Cook said: “The new videolaryngoscopes are another important step in improving patient safety, both during routine anaesthesia and especially in cases where we’re dealing with a difficult airway. The videolaryngoscope improves the view of the airway, making this critical procedure more reliable, easier and safer.

“These videolaryngoscopes really come into their own when there is difficulty and can change a life-threatening problem into one that can be easily managed. By making this technology available in all areas of the hospital – what we call Universal Videolaryngoscopy – I have no doubt that we have increased patient safety.”

The Trust has invested in 21 new C-MAC videolaryngoscopes and more than 100 blades, manufactured by Karl Storz Endoscopy UK, which has worked in collaboration with RUH clinicians for six years to bring the new technology to the Trust.

Managing Director Mike Perks said: “We are proud to be associated with the anaesthetic team at the RUH and their trail-blazing work in universal videolaryngoscopy. It is fitting that one of the most



progressive and innovative anaesthetic research teams in the UK is the first to bring the benefits of videolaryngoscopy to all their patients.”

Consultant Anaesthetist Fiona Kelly said: “Because the videolaryngoscopes are equipped with a camera, the image we need is displayed on a screen which anyone in the room can see – this improves teamwork, training and patient safety.”

Director for Research and Innovation Tim Craft said: “The RUH’s anaesthetic department was recently ranked in the three leading research departments in the world. This latest innovation illustrates that the department and the Trust are committed to investing in research and innovation that benefits patient safety.”

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Notes to Editor:

- The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust provides acute treatment and care for a catchment population of around 500,000 people in Bath, and the surrounding towns and villages in North East Somerset and Western Wiltshire. The hospital provides healthcare to the population served by four Clinical Commissioning Groups: Bath & North East Somerset CCG, Wiltshire CCG, Somerset CCG and South Gloucestershire CCG.
- The Trust has 759 beds and a comprehensive range of acute services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.
- In 2015 The Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust acquired the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) NHS Foundation Trust. The RNHRD treats patients from across the country offering services in rheumatology, chronic pain, chronic fatigue syndrome/ME, cancer related fatigue and fatigue linked to other long term conditions such as multiple sclerosis
- The RUH is changing - we have an exciting programme of redevelopment underway transforming our site and further improving the services we provide. The Trust is now building a purpose built RNHRD and Therapies Centre and working towards the new Dyson Cancer Centre. For more details visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit_for_the_future
- For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk

