

Press Release

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Free counselling for cancer patients at RUH

Free counselling for patients with cancer, and for their families, carers and friends, is now available at Bath's Royal United Hospital on Wednesday afternoons.

The service, provided by the Frome based charity Positive Action on Cancer, is based within the Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centre (CISS) in the hospital. People can drop in to the centre to talk through difficult feelings or to pick up information about the counselling service.

Cancer Information Specialist Sue Littler says: "There can be real crisis times for cancer patients and those around them - in the run up to receiving a diagnosis or treatment, and after treatment has finished - when people badly need support."

Sue believes that families, friends and carers of cancer patients will benefit as much from the service as the patients themselves: "Some people are here on an almost daily basis and are under enormous pressure. They can be carrying so much and are desperately in need of time and space to talk about how they feel and to find some support."

Anyone wanting to avail of the service can contact PAC direct on 01373 455255 or log on to www.positiveactiononcancer.co.uk

The Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centre at the RUH is open Monday to Friday, 10am-4pm. As well as providing information and support staff can also refer patients to specialist welfare benefits advisors. The telephone number is 01225 824049.

Ends

Issued by communications office: Tel: 01225 82 5849

Also sent: Innovation in Infection Control

RUH is are looking to introduce innovative products that should help the Trust fight against infection; for example, introducing disposable curtains and also uniforms with infection-fighting properties. A trial of the curtains began on 12 February 2008 and will run for six weeks in our Infection Control Ward. The trial will assess suitability of the products, their appearance and modesty attributes and the ease to fit following the discharge of patients. If the trial is successful it is expected that they will be considered for use in higher risk areas of the Trust.

The Trust recently received a presentation from Toray, a company that manufactures uniform material which contains silver thread and has antibacterial qualities which assist in the fight against MRSA. Within the

NHS clinical trials are under way using this technology and the results are planned to be published in March this year.

A wearer trial of these uniforms looks likely to take place in selected areas across the RUH (junior doctors being one possibility), subject to the Trust receiving technical data and assurances from current users that these garments are 'fit for purpose'. It is intended that a decision will be taken early in the year as to whether we intend to proceed.