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PRESS RELEASE

'Hygiene Good at RUH Bath'

An unannounced inspection of the Royal United Hospital Bath, by the Healthcare Commission, has found that the Hospital is doing well in its delivery of the Hygiene Code in all key areas it assessed. Assessors from the Healthcare Commission visited the hospital in February as part of a National programme of inspections at 120 trusts. The visit was 'unannounced' in order to see the hospital operating as a patient or visitor would see it. The Healthcare Commission, whose findings are published, **today, Friday 30th May**, found 'no material breaches of the Hygiene Code' at the RUH.

The inspection, in February 2008, looked to see whether the RUH

- had appropriate management systems in place for infection prevention and control,
- could provide and maintain a clean and appropriate environment for healthcare
- ensured that it made suitable and sufficient information available to the public.

Key findings included:

- **There is a dedicated Infection Control Team at the hospital that is fully involved in key decisions regarding prevention and control of infections.**
- **Standards of cleaning and maintenance of the fabric of the premises is satisfactory with the hospital found to be generally clean and well maintained.**
- **The hospital provides sufficient and suitable hand-washing facilities and anti-bacterial cleansers and**
- **The hospital is compliant with national standards in the handling of used and infected linen.**
- **Staff were found to be visibly smart and their uniforms clean and staff were given sufficient numbers of uniforms to wear a clean one at each shift.**
- **The hospital has an appropriate infection control infrastructure in place with staff aware of their responsibilities.**

This year, all Trusts will be visited by assessors from the HCC to give reassurance to the public and patients about standards of hygiene nationally.

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Mr John Waldron, Medical Director at the RUH said,

"An unannounced visit really does allow assessors to look at the hospital as it operates on a day to day basis. What this visit has shown is that we are very much on the right track. Attention to cleanliness is at the heart of our patient safety agenda and it is good to know that we are doing the right things. Our patients can be assured that our systems and processes are good. Of course there are things we can do better and we will."

The hospital was found to be using a range of initiatives and communication methods to inform patients and visitors about the prevention and control of infections and is providing suitable and sufficient information to patients regarding Healthcare Associated Infections that are relevant to their care. It is also sharing information with other healthcare organisations to improve care arrangements before admission and upon discharge.

These findings reflect the significant work being undertaken within the hospital to further improve the safety of care offered to its patients. It should provide reassurance to patients and their families using the hospital.

The assessors did make a small number of recommendations to further improve systems for infection prevention and control. This feedback has been helpful to the hospital and, since the inspection was carried out in February, several initiatives have been put into place that will address the Healthcare Commission's suggestions. These include;

More detailed training records for staff, making cleaning schedules more easily accessible for patients and visitors, monitoring more closely the routine practice of decontaminating patient equipment and revising policies covering the patient admission checklists to include more detailed infection control risk assessments.

NOTES:

The Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections (the hygiene code) was introduced under the Health Act 2006 and came into force on 1 October 2006. The code sets out the duties that NHS organisations need to observe to ensure that patients are cared for in an environment in which the risk of healthcare-associated infections (HCAI) is kept as low as possible.

On 14 February 2008, assessors visited the Royal United Hospital, Bath and evaluated the trust's compliance with three duties from the hygiene code.

The full report can be found on line at: www.healthcarecommission.org.uk

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