

Draft Press Release

Issue date: 6th March 2008

Waiting times for CT scans slashed since arrival of new scanner

Waiting times for a CT scan have been slashed since the arrival of a second CT scanner at the RUH. The state of the art machine, which was bought with money raised by the trust's Forever Friends Appeal, was installed in June last year.

Senior radiographer Di Pressdee says: "This new scanner has enabled us to see more patients and to significantly reduce waiting times for our patients. For instance, last May patients had to wait up to 20 weeks for a routine scan and now that wait is down to about 3 weeks. We hope that by the end of March patients will only have to wait a fortnight to be seen – as part of the governments 18 weeks strategy".

Di says the new scanner is a technologically advanced machine, producing 64 'slice' images a second: "This is vital as it ensures we can continue giving the very best patient care. The quicker patients can be diagnosed by the CT scanner, the sooner their treatment can begin."

Over half of the CT scans carried out at the trust are for out-patients, the majority of these being cancer sufferers. Someone who has benefited from the new speedier service is Valerie James from Bathampton who was scanned recently. She says: "I'm delighted that I've been able to have my scan so quickly as the longer you have to wait the more you tend to worry – so there's less anxiety when you get seen within weeks instead of months."

The £800,000 for the scanner came from a variety of sources – an astounding £160,000 was raised following a mailing campaign by doctors to their radiology patients and £150,000 came from Trowbridge based Virgin Mobile.

Chairman of The Forever Friends Appeal John Cullum says: "The massive support from former patients and their families together with members of the public helped us complete our CT Scanner Campaign. It is wonderful to see these results and to know that patients will only have a very short wait to receive their scan. I would like to thank all the individuals, companies and organisations for their generosity."

Ends