

**Communications Department**  
Tel: 01225 825489 / 821299/825799  
Email: [communication@ruh.nhs.uk](mailto:communication@ruh.nhs.uk)

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## **Media Release**

### **RUH Supports Use of Mobile Phones**

The RUH is considering a more liberal use of mobile phones on wards and treatment areas.

Updated guidance issued today by the Department of Health, indicates that NHS trusts should consider giving patients, staff and visitors the widest possible use of mobile phones, where it doesn't interfere with equipment, the privacy of others or cause a nuisance.

RUH director of facilities Howard Jones says: "In providing patient care we should also consider the emotional needs of our patients. By reducing restrictions on mobile phone use, we are widening the opportunities for patients to gain the comfort and support of the people who care about them. For this reason, we support the sensible use of mobile phones where it is safe to do so in addition to other services we offer such as bedside payphones. We do however continue to restrict the use of mobile phone cameras."

Matron for paediatrics Bev Boyd says: "Most young people are used to being able to contact their friends at anytime via text messages. When being treated in hospital, their mobile phone becomes a lifeline so we actively encourage contact via text messages.

"Our ward managers assess the risk of mobile phone use within their areas and encourage their young patients to have respect for others if they are using mobiles."

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The RUH will review its current policy on mobile phone use taking into account the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) recommendations on the safe use of mobile phones in hospitals.

The hospital will continue to restrict use of mobile phones in areas where critical care equipment susceptible to electro magnetic interference is used.

**Ends**

**Notes to editors**

- There will be a photo opportunity in the children's centre with modern matron for paediatrics Bev Boyd and a young patient on Tuesday 6 January. Please call Jane Thompson on 01225 821299 to arrange.
- For media interviews please contact Jane Thompson on 01225 821299.