

Date 9 October 2009

Communications Department
Tel: 01225 82 5849/5799/6230/1299

communication@ruh.nhs.uk
www.ruh.nhs.uk

Media Release

Embargoed till 00:01hrs November 2nd 2009

Having an operation at the RUH? Now you can log on and find out about your operation and your surgeon!

Patients referred to the RUH for surgery can now access in depth information about their operations and their surgeons via new web pages for the trust's General Surgery department.

The challenge of developing the new pages has involved close collaboration between surgeons and the hospital's in house web team, the aim being to provide information that is both patient friendly and comprehensive.

Lead surgical clinician Mr. Jeremy Tate says, "We hope the new pages will be a valuable resource for patients that will help them discover the depth of experience of our surgical team and the wide range of services that we offer".

The doctors cover a diverse range of specialisms including Breast Surgery, Colorectal surgery, Endocrine, Gastro Intestinal and Vascular surgery. They aim to operate on patients within 13 weeks of their referral to the RUH (cancer patients are seen more quickly than this).

The new pages offer information on common operations like gall bladder and hernia removal through to complex cancer surgery. They also explain how the latest keyhole surgery techniques are used.

Surgeon Mr. Tate says the pages, which show photographs of individual doctors and give information about their qualifications and areas of expertise, demonstrate a new openness in healthcare

"I'm sure all patients will want to know who their surgeon is and the expertise they bring to the RUH. Now they can find out more about who will be doing their operation and learn about the entire team that will be looking after them".

RUH web developer Louette Eagles says she hopes the pages cover everything patients will want to know

“The challenge was to bring together all aspects of each department in a way that reflects every step in the patient's likely journey through hospital; from visiting the clinic, to tests and diagnostic procedures, surgery and aftercare. Also included is information about conditions, the teams responsible for your care, and links to related web sites. We are confident that these pages reflect the high quality of care that patients can expect from the RUH”.

NOTES

The general surgery team at the RUH performs over 9,000 operations a year in addition to seeing more than 16,000 people in outpatient clinics annually.

The team comprises 11 consultants, 2 associate specialists and 20 trainees.

The new pages can be visited at: www.ruh.nhs.uk/generalsurgery

As the surgeons work across five different specialities, patients can search the pages according to the type of surgery they are having as follows:

www.ruh.nhs.uk/breastunit

www.ruh.nhs.uk/colorectal

www.ruh.nhs.uk/endocrine

www.ruh.nhs.uk/generalsurgery

www.ruh.nhs.uk/uppergi

www.ruh.nhs.uk/vascular

For those unable to access the internet, the Communications team will make every effort to forward relevant sections of the site to patients who request this.

ENDS

To interview Mr. Tate please call Brigid Devlin on mobile: 07980307610

Alternatively, call the Communications Team on 01225 825849/825799