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Out of intensive care in time for Christmas

Adam Button has more reason than most to celebrate Christmas this year. He is finally going home for just the second time in fourteen months, after being cared for in the intensive care unit at the RUH.

Mum Trish and Dad Eddy, who live in Chippenham, are celebrating his homecoming. Eddy says: "Adam has only been home for one day in the last 14 months, and that was only recently as a trial. He is very excited and it will be so great to have him here after such a long time in hospital.

"Thanks to the brilliant nursing team at the RUH - who have trained us to such a high level of competence - we're feeling very confident about coping and of course we'll have nursing support. The ITU team have become like part of the family, we're all on first name terms and they done so much for us. They go above and beyond the call of duty and we think they're brilliant."

Adam, who suffers from a neuro muscular disorder, came into the ITU back in September 2008 with a chest infection and he has had to spend a long time on a respirator. His treatment also involved spending time at a specialist unit in St Thomas' in London, where he will return for reassessment in three months time. At home, he will have 24-hour nursing care to support him.

After spending nearly 5,750 hours in ITU, and being cared for by many nurses and doctors, as well as physiotherapists, dieticians, a personal trainer and a school teacher, Adam and his family are looking forward to a quiet Christmas with the family.

Trish says: "It will be so nice to sit down to Christmas dinner in our own home and have everything we need all around us. Adam is looking forward to watching the wrestling that we've been taping for him - he's a massive fan. We wouldn't be in this position without the fantastic nurses at the RUH, we can't praise them enough."

Junior Sister Amy Howland, who is Adam's lead nurse, says: "We are all going to miss Adam hugely, we've built such a close relationship with him - but of course we're all delighted that he's going home. We'll be keeping in touch."

Intensivist Steve Laver says: "It's been a difficult case to deal with but the team has really pulled together to reach this outcome. Adam has got through due to excellent nursing care - it's a great result."

Before he came into hospital, Adam had a provisional place at National Star College, a specialist college in Cheltenham. Because his condition changed, he will need to be reassessed in the New Year. Depending on the outcome, Adam is hoping to study music and art as a live-in resident.

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