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Media Release

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RUH is still 'extremely busy'

The Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust continues to cope with an extremely high number of inpatients and we are asking that patients and visitors bear with us at this time.

Francesca Thompson, the Chief Operating Officer (interim) says: "There has been an unprecedented demand on our services, even busier than normal for this time of year, with no sign of let up. The extra influx of patients is putting the hospital under extreme pressure, but our staff have responded magnificently and are working flat out to help keep the hospital running.

"The hospital's discharge arrangements are being reviewed on an hourly basis and we are also liaising closely with primary care trusts to effect timely discharge arrangements for patients and identify appropriate beds in the community."

We encourage the public to use alternative healthcare options such as minor injuries units – coming to the Emergency department with a minor injury diverts staff attention from those emergency patients who need to be admitted – or walk-in centres, or to consult NHS Direct.

Francesca continues: "Thanks to the magnificent efforts of our staff we can reassure the public that the RUH will continue to provide care for those who need it. I would also like to pay tribute to my colleagues in the primary care trusts and social services who are also under extreme pressure and are working closely with us to make best use of our services and other facilities across the community."

The public can also help prevent the spread of seasonal diarrhoea and vomiting which is currently widespread in the community. Visitors, who have themselves recovered but are still potentially infectious, are being asked not to come into hospital to visit relatives and friends for 72 hours after symptoms have cleared so that they do not put other patients at risk and cause bed closures.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Average attendance & admissions via Emergency Department over the last four years, from 2008/09 to 2011/12, month on month:

Average	Compared to same month in 2012/2013
October 5,860	6,252
November 5,525	5,893
December 5,563	6,019
January 5,516	5,677