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## **New Trauma Assessment Unit opens at the RUH**

Patients with complex injuries and conditions that need specialist orthopaedic treatment will benefit from speedier care at a new dedicated unit that's opened at the Royal United Hospital.

The Trauma Assessment Unit will also create more capacity in the hospital's Emergency Department and the Surgical Assessment Unit, where such patients were formerly seen.

Karen Driscoll, Deputy Divisional Manager, Surgery, said: "We're really excited to be opening a dedicated clinical area that will be of better quality and more efficient for both patients and staff."

The unit, adjoining the Emergency Department, is open from 10am to 10pm seven days a week. It is staffed by dedicated nurses with the input of the on-call trauma and orthopaedic surgical team.

The unit's first patient, Ollie Bird, from Stroud, said: "I was referred straight here from the medical centre in Chippenham. The experience has been fantastic – really quick and friendly – and I'll be home very soon."

Orthopaedic consultant Tristan Barton said: "Patients shouldn't notice any difference in the care provided, except that they'll be seen quicker. Patients may still arrive at ED, be triaged as usual, and then referred onto the on-call team who will accept them into the Trauma Assessment Unit, rather than waiting for their turn to go elsewhere in ED. Patients who are referred by their GP will be admitted directly into TAU if appropriate, receive treatment and be discharged home.

“Bringing patients directly to the new unit means we can provide the right care in the right place at the right time. Our dedicated nurses can quickly and proactively carry out the tests a patient needs, so by the time they’re seen by the trauma and orthopaedic team the right information is there already. We believe it’s a win-win solution for both the hospital and patients.”

## Ends

### Notes to Editor:

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust provides acute treatment and care for a catchment population of around 500,000 people in Bath, and the surrounding towns and villages in North East Somerset and Western Wiltshire. The hospital provides healthcare to the population served by four Clinical Commissioning Groups: Bath & North East Somerset CCG, Wiltshire CCG, Somerset CCG and South Gloucestershire CCG.

The Trust provides 759 beds and a comprehensive range of acute services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

In 2015 The Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust acquired the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) NHS Foundation Trust. The RNHRD treats patients from across the country offering services in rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME, cancer related fatigue and fatigue linked to other long term conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

The RUH is changing - we have an exciting programme of redevelopment underway transforming our site and further improving the services we provide. The Trust has opened the purpose-built RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre and is now working towards the new Dyson Cancer Centre. For more details visit: [www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit\\_for\\_the\\_future](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit_for_the_future)

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)