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RUH's Innovation Panel back in business

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust's Innovation Panel is back in business and has made its first award since the coronavirus pandemic began.

The panel has agreed to fund the cost of a year-long pilot project of remote Pre-Op Assessment clinics for patients having surgery.

The RUH's Pre-op Assessment Unit ensures that patients are at their best optimum health prior to any surgery or surgical procedure.

From today (Monday 6 July), the unit will be able to use the online MyPreOp program, which allows patients to complete a comprehensive assessment of their general health and medical history from the comfort of their home. This digital report then highlights any areas of concern and helps to identify patients with conditions who will need a face-to-face consultation.

Dr Rowan Hardy, RUH Lead for Pre-Operative Assessment, said: "The MyPreOp system has great potential for improving patient experience and making clinics more efficient. It will reduce the number of visits that patients have to make, saving them the trouble and inconvenience of travelling, and it will release more time for nurses and doctors to spend with those patients who actually need more personal attention.

"If the pilot is a success it could be a great benefit for the future, not just in Pre-Op but in other areas such as children's surgery and non-theatre treatments."

Chair:
Alison Ryan

Interim Chief Executive:
Libby Walters



Fiona Bird and Elizabeth Poskitt, Joint Chairs of the Innovation Panel, said: “We’re really impressed by this project’s potential and by Rowan’s comprehensive presentation.

“We’re pleased to be able to support the pilot and look forward to receiving and reviewing many more such innovative ideas.”

The Trust’s Innovation Panel provides support and funding for projects to improve patient care and experience or increase efficiency across the hospital.

The Panel will consider applications to cover things such as:

- funding to allow staff to develop new and innovative ways of working
- funding for staff to evaluate pilots
- short-term pilots to test ideas and ways of working
- schemes that require pump priming to change ways of working
- different or new use of technologies that support efficiency or innovation
- development of technologies that support efficiency or innovation

Ends

Notes to Editor:

The World Health Organization has designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. Our nurses and midwives are a big part of the RUH family and throughout the year we are celebrating the work they do, going above and beyond every day to give our patients compassionate care.

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

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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

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk