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Media Release

Women urged to attend vital screenings

Cancer specialists from the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust are urging women to make sure they keep their appointments for cervical screening, among national reports that women haven't been attending appointments during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With September being Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month, staff at the RUH are taking the opportunity to remind women about the importance of attending cervical screening (smear test).

Cervical screenings help to prevent cervical cancer by checking for a virus called high risk Human Papillomavirus (HPV) as well as identifying any cervical cell changes.

Tracie Miles, Gynaecology Cancer Nurse Specialist at the RUH, said: "Across the country, we know that some women have not been attending for cervical screening during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Cervical screening plays a vital role in helping to prevent cervical cancer so it is really important that women keep to their appointments.

"While we understand that many women will be anxious about attending for a screening at the moment, we want to reassure them that, should they need us after having an abnormal screening test, we are following all infection prevention and control guidelines to keep our patients and staff safe.

"I would ask any women with questions or concerns about attending their screening to get in touch so we can reassure them and talk them through the process."

Tracie added that it was important women were aware of their own genital health and to seek advice if they noticed any changes.

Chair:
Alison Ryan

Chief Executive:
Cara Charles-Barks

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You can show your support for Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month by backing the Eve Appeal charity's Go Red campaign, which aims to encourage people to raise money by holding a Go Red event - anything from a virtual quiz, to baking for friends, or organising a group of friends or colleagues to wear red for the day. Find out more at www.eveappeal.org.uk

If you have any questions about your screening, call 01225 821962/824284.

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 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

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