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Media Release

New virtual reality tours for RUH's youngest patients

Young patients having an operation at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust can now take a new virtual reality tour of the Children's Ward and operating theatres ahead of their procedure, to help calm any nerves they may have.

Two films have been produced and uploaded to the RUH's website, thanks to funding from the Time is Precious charity, which aim to show young patients what to expect when they come to the hospital.

The films were made by Consultant Anaesthetist Dr Rebecca Leslie and one features her daughter Sadie when she came to the hospital for an operation.

There are two new videos – one aimed at children aged under eight, and another for those aged eight and above. *They were filmed before the COVID-19 pandemic, so some staff may be seen wearing less PPE than they would now.*

Subjects covered in the films include:

- A tour of the Children's Ward and play area
- Having your blood pressure and temperature taken
- Staff wearing PPE
- Having your anaesthetic, or 'sleep medicine'
- That all-important reminder to bring your favourite teddy with you

Rebecca said: "The films aim to make our young patients, and their parents, less anxious about coming to the hospital by showing them what to expect.

"We already have a couple of films on the website, but we felt it was time to update them and by using virtual reality we could give patients a much better look around the department.

“We find that patients who have seen the film are much more calm and relaxed when they arrive at the RUH. They also know what having an anaesthetic is like, which is just what we were hoping for.

“The videos have been funded completely by the Time is Precious charity, who do so much for the hospital. I can’t thank them enough – the difference they are making for our youngest patients is invaluable.”

Neil Halford, from Time is Precious, said: “It’s an honour to fund these films which will help so many children who visit the RUH for a procedure. It’s been a tough 12 months for fundraising, but thanks to our supporters we can still support projects like this, which makes a massive difference.”

You can view the films [here](#)

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

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