



Royal United Hospitals Bath

NHS Foundation Trust

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18.05.21

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Media Release

End of life – RUH Bath staff share experiences of providing outstanding COVID-19 care

As the latest lockdown restrictions are lifted this week, staff at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust have shared their experiences of caring for patients who have died during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a 12-minute video the staff, including junior doctors, a Critical care nurse and a hospital chaplain reflect on the moment of end of life and the effect it continues to have on their work and their personal emotions.

The Trust shared the video with its staff via internal channels during last week's national Dying Matters Awareness Week. It had such a big response that it's been decided to make the film public for a wider audience to hear first-hand what was happening in the RUH and in hospitals and healthcare settings across the UK.

The video, called 'Caring to the very end' was made as a staff learning resource and to help staff physical and mental health and wellbeing. Outside of the RUH the film will be shared with the South West Palliative and End of Life Care Network and organisations for improving patient care and providing healthcare staff with practical and emotional support.

Helen Meehan, RUH Lead Nurse for Palliative and End of Life Care said: "Caring for people nearing end of life and supporting their families is one of the most important things we do here at the RUH. We are so incredibly thankful to the staff that shared their very personal experiences of caring for patients and families during the pandemic. The film is so powerful and so moving, and we feel it could help staff from across the trust and other hospitals to reflect and talk about how it has been for them."

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Chair:
Alison Ryan

Chief Executive:
Cara Charles-Barks



The film – which some people might find upsetting – can be seen on the Trust’s website and YouTube here:

<https://youtu.be/JtYgcBgogng>

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