

20.07.21

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Media Release

RUH opens new Radiology scanning unit

A new scanning unit has opened at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust which is set to increase scanner capacity for the thousands of patients who visit the Radiology department each year.

The new extension, at the rear of the existing Radiology department, houses a high specification Siemens CT scanner which can produce detailed images of the inside of the body, including organs, blood vessels and bones.

This new addition to the RUH's Radiology department follows a £7.5M improvement project that was completed last year, making the department one of the most modern and best-equipped in the South West.

The project saw two older MRI scanners – used to examine most parts of the body, including bones and joints – stripped back to their powerful magnet and rebuilt on site with the latest scanning technology. Each scan room that houses them was also refurbished, which included replacing the Radiofrequency cage which lines the room as well as a complete refit of their control areas.

An older CT scanner was removed and replaced with the latest model. Its scanning room and control area was also refurbished.

It means the Radiology Department now has seven modern MRI and CT scanners as well as X-ray and ultrasound facilities. The department also has a PET-CT scanner used in the detection and diagnosis of cancer and dementia. There are also larger and improved waiting areas for patients.

Di Pressdee, Team Lead Radiographer for CT and MRI, said: “The new scanner is a fantastic addition to our first-class Radiology department and will enable an increase in scanner capacity for both inpatients and outpatients over the coming months.

“Staff have worked very hard to get the new equipment installed as quickly as possible, along with the building and commissioning of the new unit.

“On average, around 275,000 patients come for imaging in the Radiology department each year – of which, over 60,000 are for CT and MRI scans – and they will really benefit from this great new technology.”

Ends

Notes to Editor:

- CT scans can produce detailed images of many structures inside the body, including the internal organs, blood vessels and bones. They can be used to:
 - **diagnose conditions** – including damage to bones, injuries to internal organs, problems with blood flow, strokes and cancer
 - **guide further tests or treatments** – for example, CT scans can help to determine the location, size and shape of a tumour before having radiotherapy, or to allow a doctor to take a needle biopsy (where a small tissue sample is removed using a needle) or drain an abscess
 - **monitor conditions** – including checking the size of tumours during and after cancer treatment
- Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a type of scan that uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to produce detailed images of the inside of the body.
- An MRI scanner is a large tube that contains powerful magnets. You lie inside the tube during the scan.
- An MRI scan can be used to examine almost any part of the body, including the:

- brain and spinal cord
- bones and joints
- breasts
- heart and blood vessels
- internal organs, such as the liver, womb or prostate gland
- The results of an MRI scan can be used to help diagnose conditions, plan treatments and assess how effective previous treatment has been.
- The RUH Radiology Department undertakes a full range of diagnostic imaging, including PET-CT. The department operates on seven separate sites across the locality undertaking around 293,615 patient examinations per year.

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