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Media Release

RUH takes key role in national epilepsy treatment study

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust is playing a central role in a new study evaluating the impact on quality of life of epilepsy surgery compared to treatment with or without medication.

One key outcome of the study will be to identify patients who may benefit from surgery to help reduce the severity of their condition.

Epilepsy surgery can be offered to those patients whose condition cannot be managed through anti-epileptic drugs. For others, medication can be effective in controlling the illness.

The study - 'Pharmaco-resistant Epilepsy treatment Options and Quality of Life' - is aimed at patients who have had multiple emergency department admissions.

The new study takes place as people mark International Epilepsy Day on Monday 14 February, a day which aims to raise awareness about epilepsy around the world.

Epilepsy is one of the most common serious neurological conditions in the world. It affects around 600,000 people in the UK. This means that almost 1 in 100 people in the UK have epilepsy. Around 87 people are diagnosed with epilepsy in the UK every day.

Sarah Stratton, Lead Research Practitioner, Planned Care, said: "This study will allow us to engage patients who could benefit from research and is an important first step to ensuring that we are offering the best care to our patients and community.

"It's a real honour for the RUH to be involved in this study, which marks the start of a new neurology research portfolio, in a collaboration with epilepsy teams at hospitals in Cornwall and London.

"The study is open now and the research team is starting to get in touch with patients to see if they can help with the research. We are particularly keen to sign up patients who have not been involved with research before."

The RUH is a research active trust with Research and Development (R&D) playing a vital part in the hospital's work.

Research is essential in providing new knowledge and learning about advice and treatments that will improve a patient's care and quality of life.

Clinicians across many different departments and specialties of the RUH are involved in a wide-range of research projects and evidence-based working.

The hospital also carries out research in partnership with local universities in Bath and Bristol, as well as many other academic institutions, NHS Trusts and charities.

Patients who would like to be considered for clinical research are asked to speak to their nurse or clinician about the latest research studies they may be able to join.

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