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Media Release

RUH supports new grant scheme to help get patients home

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust is supporting a new scheme being trialled across the local area which will see eligible patients receive small grants for care packages to help get them home as soon as they are well enough to leave hospital.

The Hospital Discharge Personal Health Budget Grant (HD Grant) is for those patients who are medically fit to leave hospital, but who need a little extra care and support once they get home.

This extra support could be additional help with getting washed and dressed, or someone to help with cooking and shopping. It could be provided by a family member or another individual.

The one-off HD Grant will be made to cover a maximum of period of four weeks and be based on that individual's personalised care and support plan. Patients will need to meet specific criteria to receive the grant.

RUH Chief Operating Officer Simon Sethi said: "Nobody wants to stay in hospital longer than necessary, so these grants will play a really important role in helping to get patients back home as soon as they are well enough to leave us.

"The RUH, like all hospitals, has patients who are well enough to be discharged, but who just need a bit of extra support once they get home. This grant will help to provide that support as well as freeing-up beds for those who need acute medical care."

The project is being led by the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group. The grants will be available to patients at the RUH, Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust.

You can find out more about the project here: [Discharge Grant Scheme \(bswccg.nhs.uk\)](http://bswccg.nhs.uk)

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