

16.02.2022

Communications Department  
Royal United Hospital  
Combe Park  
Bath  
BA1 3NG

Tel: 01225 826230 / 821459  
Mobile: 07557 756658 (office hours)

[Ruh-tr.communicationteam@nhs.net](mailto:Ruh-tr.communicationteam@nhs.net)  
[www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)  
<https://twitter.com/RUHBath>

## Media Release

### Young patient fundraises for the RUH to help children diagnosed with type one diabetes

A ten-year-old patient at the Royal United Hospitals (RUH) Bath NHS Foundation Trust has donated new kit to help hundreds of other children with type one diabetes.

Maci Beety was inspired to fundraise for insulin injection aids, called TickleFLEX, after being impressed by how they made her regular injections more comfortable.

The accessories are secured onto the end of insulin injection pens and tickle the skin to stimulate the nerves, which can help mask discomfort. The aid also hides the needle from sight.

Maci, from Trowbridge, was diagnosed with type one diabetes in December 2020, and has been receiving support from the Children's Diabetes Service at the RUH.

She organised a number of events in her local community to fundraise, including a 'TypeOnsie' day where her fellow pupils came to school wearing onsies to raise money and awareness. Maci raised enough for over 200 injection aids, and dropped off her donation at a recent hospital appointment.

She said: "I really wanted to be able to help other young people who are diagnosed with diabetes as it can be quite hard. TickleFLEX helped me so I hope they might help other people too."

Type one diabetes causes the level of glucose (sugar) in your blood to become too high. It happens when your body cannot produce enough of a hormone called insulin, which

controls blood glucose. People who have type one diabetes need injections of insulin to keep their blood glucose levels under control.

Karen Bradshaw, Lead Paediatric Diabetes Specialist Nurse, said: “When people have type one diabetes like Maci, they need to inject insulin multiple times a day to stay well. This can be tricky, especially at the beginning when people are first diagnosed, but these injection aids can make the process more comfortable and easier to manage for some people.

“We can’t thank Maci enough for her fundraising. The donation will make a huge difference to the children and young people who use our service. Through her fundraising, Maci has also helped to raise awareness of type one diabetes, which can affect anyone, at any age.”

Type one diabetes symptoms can come on quickly, particularly in children. Common symptoms include:

- feeling very thirsty
- peeing more than usual, particularly at night
- feeling very tired
- losing weight without trying
- thrush that keeps coming back
- blurred vision
- cuts and grazes that are not healing
- fruity-smelling breath

If you, or your child, experience symptoms please see a GP as soon as possible or visit [111.nhs.uk](http://111.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

Chair:  
Alison Ryan

Chief Executive:  
Cara Charles-Barks



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](http://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](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)

Chair:  
Alison Ryan

Chief Executive:  
Cara Charles-Barks

