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Media Release

Public can vote for the care workers who make a difference

The public are being given the chance to say thank you to the caring staff at the Royal United Hospital (RUH) for the remarkable work they do, by nominating individuals or teams for the People's Award for Dignity in Care.

This is a new national NHS award that has been created to officially recognise individuals and teams who go above and beyond the call of duty, to ensure dignity and respect in any area of health and social care.

Patient Sandy says: "Being diagnosed with breast cancer was life changing news. I cannot speak highly enough of the care, understanding and support I received from the Breast Unit at the RUH, especially from my nurse. I was always treated with dignity and sensitivity. Someone was always at the end of the phone if I needed them and my questions were answered honestly but took into account the fragile position I was in. I think the Dignity in Care Award is a brilliant idea and I'll definitely nominate someone from the RUH for this award."

Matron Debbie Grant, who is the trust's lead for privacy and dignity at the Royal United Hospital, says: "The People's Award for Dignity in Care is a way for us to recognise those in the care services who are doing a great job. It doesn't have to be a huge thing sometimes the smallest things make the biggest difference."

Anyone can nominate any team or individual working in a care setting. This includes consultants, nurses, GPs, social workers, hospital porters and care home employees. To be eligible for an award the nominee must be a care worker who has made a difference.

The closing date for nominations is 6 March 2009 and then ten regional finalists will be selected to go through to the final in July, where they will get the chance to meet Sir Michael Parkinson, the Ambassador for Dignity in Care. The winner will receive a trophy and the runners up each get a certificate.

Nominations can be made online at www.dignityincare.org.uk or there is a freephone helpline number 0870 000 1100.

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