

Relocating RNHRD and Therapies Services – Frequently Asked Questions

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Questions about what is happening

What is happening and when?

In autumn 2019 we're relocating services and staff from the Mineral Water Hospital site to the new RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre which is being built at the RUH's Combe Park site. At the same time, the RUH Therapies and Pain team will also relocate to the new RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre. You can see the detailed description of which services are moving and where they will move to [here](#).

Will all services move at the same time?

No. There will be a phased programme of relocating services during early autumn, more details are available [here](#)

What does this mean for me?

Services continue in the usual way in the lead up to relocation. We have plans in place to ensure the smooth and safe transfer of services with the minimum disruption to patients and staff.

Following the move, patients will continue to receive the same service, in new locations which have been designed in conjunction with staff and patients.

Why aren't all the RNHRD services staying together?

We have worked closely with patients, staff and the wider community to provide the best new home for each of the RNHRD's services. We have also taken into account clinical requirements and the underlying principles of each service to identify or design where services should sit.

Why are services moving from the Mineral Water Hospital Site?

The Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) was acquired by the Royal United Hospital in February 2015. Due to significant and long-standing financial challenges the RNHRD could not continue in its current form. The RNHRD needed to become part of a larger organisation to ensure the continuation and future provision of its high quality services.

Following acquisition, the RUH took over responsibility for all the services of the RNHRD. All RNHRD clinical services continued with patients continuing to be seen and treated by the same clinical teams.

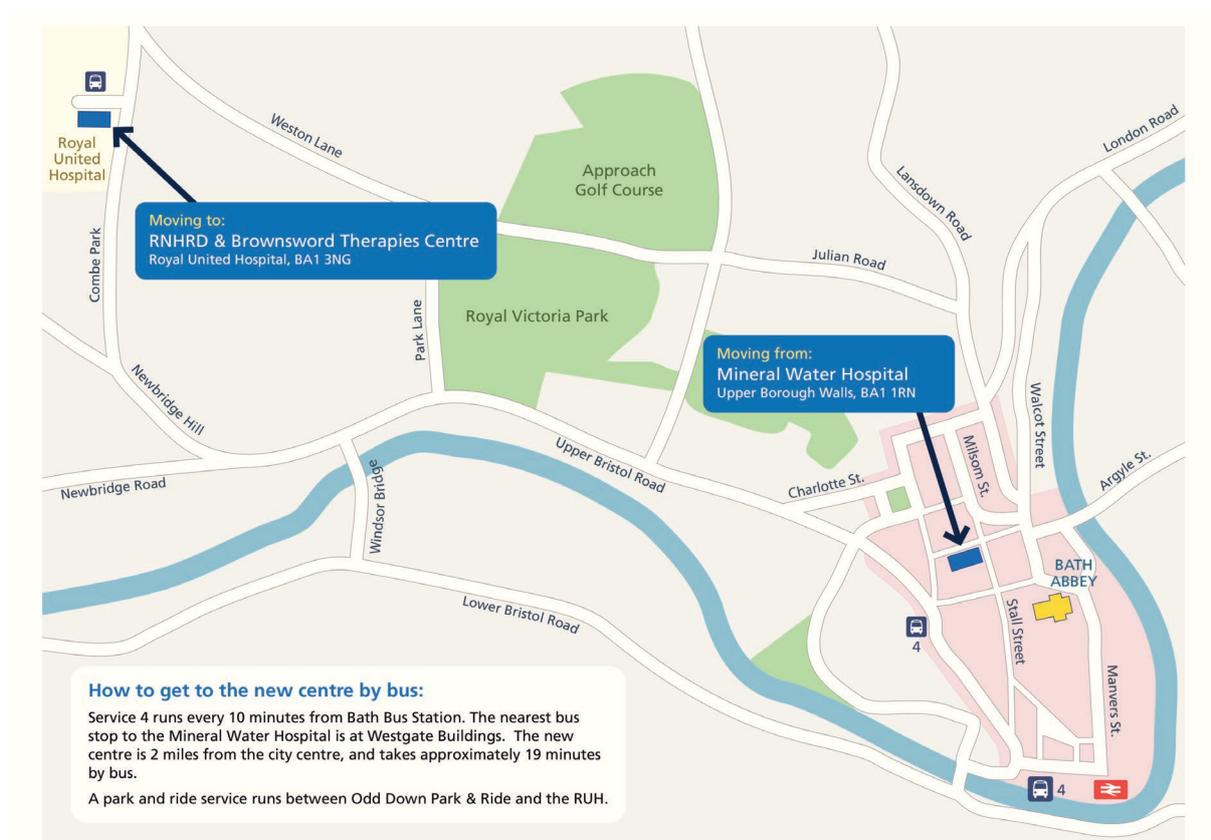
As part of the acquisition process, the RUH outlined that services would relocate from the Mineral Water Hospital site to the RUH site, or suitable community settings where clinically appropriate and to maximise patient benefit. Following a period of careful planning and engagement with patients, staff and others to identify and create the best new home for each

service, we are approaching the final phase of moving services and service from the Mineral Water Hospital site.

Questions about transport and parking

How can I get to the RUH site?

The RUH is located less than two miles from the Mineral Water Hospital site. The RUH has good public transport links, including a regular bus route to and from the centre of Bath, and is accessible via the Odd Down Park and Ride. More information on transport and parking is available [here](#).



What parking is available on the RUH site?

The RUH provides over 600 visitor and patient spaces across the site, and around 70 Blue Badge spaces, some of which are located close to the entrance of the new RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre.

There is no patient or visitor parking available at the Mineral Water Hospital site other than two Blue Badge parking spaces.

Do I have to pay for parking at the RUH?

Blue Badge holders can [register for free parking](#) on the RUH site. All other users must pay to park if using an onsite carpark.

An automated number plate recognition system is in operation at the RUH. You do not need to display a ticket and can pay on arrival, on departure or up to midnight on the day of parking. More details are available [here](#).

Are there dedicated spaces for Blue Badge holders on the RUH site?

Yes. There are around 70 dedicated Blue Badge spaces. Parking is free for Blue Badge holders once have logged your vehicle registration number(s) and Blue Badge details with the Trust.

You can do this by coming to the main hospital reception desk with your documents, or you call us on **01225 824100** and then present your Blue Badge for database validation at reception when you next visit the RUH. Each Blue Badge holder can register up to three vehicles.

Once registered and confirmed, you still need to display your badge in your vehicle while parked. Please note, if your Blue Badge has been renewed/replaced since it was originally registered you will need to re-register it to continue to park without charge.

You can park in any of the pay and display car parks on the Trust site free of charge when you display your Blue Badge.

I usually catch a train when I visit the Mineral Water Hospital, how can I reach the RUH from the train station?

The [number 4](#) and [number 20](#) buses, operated by [First Bus](#) travel at frequent intervals from the Bath Bus station, Dorchester Street to the RUH site. The bus station is located next to Bath Spa railway station.

What bus services stop at the RUH?

No 4: This is a popular bus amongst RUH staff, running every 10 mins from Odd Down to Weston. The bus has major stops at the City Centre and RUH. Times can be found [here](#)

No 42: The park and ride runs half hourly, runs directly to RUH from Odd Down. Times can be found [here](#)

No. 39/ X39 runs from the Bristol Bus Station to Bath Bus Station and you can get off along Newbridge Road and walk up to the RUH. It's a short walk, shouldn't take any longer than 15 minutes to get to the RUH. The bus times can be found [here](#)

Questions about the Mineral Water Hospital Building**I like the Min because it is small and personal. How can this quality possibly be preserved once everything has transferred to an even bigger RUH?**

It is clinicians who underpin the quality of the RNHRD services and who will continue to lead and deliver them in the future. RNHRD clinicians have been central to the planning of the future of their services. The RUH recognise and understand the RNHRD's culture and values and wishes to build upon this.

The new RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre has been designed in conjunction with patients and staff as a dedicated outpatient centre, to create a healing environment for patients and families.

Bernard Ireland House, which will be specially refurbished to house the Bath Centre for Pain Services and provide residential accommodation for patient programmes, will provide a therapeutic environment, away from the main acute hospital building.

What will happen to the Mineral Water Hospital Building?

The building was sold in 2017, and all the proceeds were put towards the new RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre.

The Trust has an agreement in place to continue to use the building until the new premises at the RUH are completed and all services have relocated.

What will happen to the Bath Medical Museum (BMM)?

The Bath Medical Museum are a registered charity, run by volunteers. The Museum is currently housed in the Chapel (Lecture Hall) of the Mineral Water Hospital Site. The BMM's last day open to visitors in its current location will be Friday 31 May 2019. After this, the volunteers will be packing everything up ready for relocation. They do have a new location for the BMM and will shortly be announced to the public. For more information visit their website: www.bathmedicalmuseum.org

What about if former patients or tourists want to come and see the Mineral Hospital Building before services move out of the site?

Until all services are relocated and the building is decommissioned, the Mineral Water Hospital site remains a working hospital site and the care of patients remains our priority. Other visitors are welcome to visit the Bath Medical Museum during opening hours. We will look at ways to mark the final move from the building in 2019.

Questions about how the move is being managed

Moving sites is a big task – who is co-ordinating?

We have a number of staff supporting the transfer process including a clinical project manager overseeing the equipping and transfer with the Deputy Chief Operating Officer and the Operational Improvement Team to support the transfer of staff and patient services. The aim is to ensure a seamless transition for staff and minimal disruption to patient care. As part of the RUH's Fit for the Future estates redevelopment programme, the Trust has significant experience of moving staff and services into new buildings in a safe, smooth and effective way.

Questions about inpatient services

What will happen to rheumatology inpatients at the RUH?

The RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre has been purpose built as an outpatient and rehabilitation centre – there are no inpatient beds in the Centre. Clinicians and colleagues are developing a proposal for the management of patients that require hospital

admission under the care of a rheumatology consultant. The preference is that these patients would be allocated where possible to Helena and Parry Wards.

The RUH has a number of patients admitted at any one time who would benefit from a rheumatology review, so there is also a proposal to develop a Roving Rheumatology Multidisciplinary Assessment team, which would be able to respond to referrals throughout the Trust.

What will this mean for those staff who currently work on a ward at the RNHRD?

We don't want to lose any of our staff from the RNHRD, wherever they work. There will be roles for ward staff on the RUH site and our Heads of Nursing and matrons will be following up with ward staff to discuss the opportunities across the Trust.