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RUH teams awarded for improving patient experience

Clinical teams at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust have been recognised for their work to improve patient experience.

The hospital's first-ever Patient Experience Awards were an opportunity to share improvements to patient experience that frontline staff have made, with four teams receiving the top awards from over 20 nominations.

First place went to the Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) team for improving attendance at its twice-yearly IBD Patient Evenings, an opportunity for the team to share information with patients face-to-face.

By working hard to publicise the events and tailoring the content for the evenings to reflect patient feedback, attendance at the evenings has now doubled with very positive feedback from patients.

Dr David Walker, Consultant Gastroenterologist and IBD Lead, said: "Improving patient experience is at the heart of what we do - whether this is by talking to our patients on the advice line or in clinic, or hosting these evenings to facilitate platforms for discussion and education, our aim is to always provide a positive and supportive service for our patients. We are therefore delighted to receive this award."

The other award winners were:

Second place – Therapies Oncology Team

The Therapies Oncology Team provides physiotherapy and occupational therapy support for cancer patients following diagnosis. Patients told us that they would have benefitted from knowing the team was there to support them following their initial diagnosis.

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As a result, staff worked to raise awareness of the service in oncology and produced a leaflet explaining what the service could offer. This leaflet is now given to patients at pre-treatment talks from cancer support workers. Referrals to the service increased from an average of 36 a month to 56 a month and referrals for patients with head and neck cancer increased fourfold.

Joint third place – Menopause Oncology Clinic

A multi-disciplinary clinic has been set up to support women going through the menopause as a result of treatment or surgery for cancer. The clinic, funded through a Macmillan Pilot project grant, includes a menopause specialist, an oncologist and a breast and gynaecology clinical nurse specialist. It aims to improve quality of life - maintaining patients on appropriate therapy, switching where necessary and stopping therapies where the risks may outweigh the benefits. Feedback from patients has been overwhelmingly positive and the clinic has had an extremely positive impact on the quality of care provided to patients.

Joint third place – Sexual Health Service at Riverside

The service launched a telephone consultation service for women requesting an intrauterine device (coil) for contraception. This meant that women had one less appointment to attend in person at the hospital, saving them time and the inconvenience of having to take time off work or arrange childcare. Feedback from patients showed a high degree of satisfaction with the pre-coil fit telephone consultation. There was also a fall in the number of patients failing to attend appointments and a reduction in the number of procedures that had to be postponed from failure to comply with the pre-coil fit advice.

These projects all took place before the start of the coronavirus pandemic and the RUH is now exploring how patient experience may have changed since, taking into account new ways of working across the hospital.

Sharon Manhi, Lead for Patient and Carer Experience, said: "Patient experience is at the heart of what we aim to do at the RUH and I was overwhelmed at the number of teams that came forward to share the great work that they had been doing.

"Unfortunately, our celebration event was not able to go ahead at the end of March as planned but we are hoping we will be able to share all the good work later in the year."

Ends

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Notes to Editor:

The World Health Organization has designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. Our nurses and midwives are a big part of the RUH family and throughout the year we are celebrating the work they do, going above and beyond every day to give our patients compassionate care.

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

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