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Cooling caps for RUH chemotherapy patients

Cancer patients receiving chemotherapy treatment at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust (RUH) are benefiting from a generous donation of new-design scalp cooling caps that can help to reduce hair loss, thanks to the family of a former patient.

Cooling caps work by lowering the scalp temperature during and after chemotherapy. Liquid coolant passes through the cap, extracting heat from the patient's scalp and ensuring the scalp remains at an even cool temperature to minimise hair loss.

Rosalyn (Roz) Hancock, from Bath, sadly passed away from bowel cancer in November last year after two years of treatment at the RUH Chemotherapy Department, aged 64.

Her husband Nick said: "My donation is my way of saying thank you to the wonderful staff at the RUH on behalf of my dear wife. Roz was hugely appreciative of the tender care she received from all of the chemotherapy staff at the RUH over the course of her illness, and also of the wonderful staff themselves, who became her friends on the way.

"Scalp cooling to reduce hair loss during chemotherapy is an important resource which can help to retain a patient's identity and dignity at a difficult time. Cancer robs you of so much, so to be able to offer a chance at preventing the indignity of losing your hair is so important.

"Roz spent a lifetime caring for both children and adults in various settings in Bath, and she would have loved this opportunity to help others undergoing chemotherapy."

Chair:
Alison Ryan

Interim Chief Executive:
Libby Walters



Mr Hancock has donated 18 new-design Paxman cooling caps which are now in use in the chemotherapy unit.

Chemotherapy Clinical Nurse specialist Karen Skelley said: “We’re really grateful to Mr Hancock – this donation will help us to further improve patients’ experience while they receive treatment.

“As a service we aim to minimize any distress for our patients, and provide scalp cooling as an option during their treatments. For some people, hair loss can be the hardest part of having treatment and can have a significant impact on a patient's body image. Reducing hair loss can help patients retain some sense of normality and control, which can also affect their ability to cope with their treatment.”

Paxman’s Director of Strategic Initiatives, Claire Paxman said: “As a family business we understand how traumatic alopecia as a result of chemotherapy can be. The Paxman Scalp Cooling System was developed by our chairman Glenn after he saw the enormous impact hair loss had on his late wife, Sue and their young family when she underwent chemotherapy for breast cancer. One of the Paxman children, James, married Roz and Nick’s daughter Gemma. The whole family rallied round to help Roz as much as possible, assisting Roz in her cap sizing and teaching both her and Nick how to fit the cap.

“It was an honour to be able to help Roz during her treatment, not only because she was family but also having had first-hand experience ourselves with our beautiful late Mum. It was important to all of us to be able to help Roz to avoid the same traumatic experiences. We are absolutely delighted that Nick chose to honour Roz by donating caps to RUH Chemotherapy Department. So many people will be able to benefit from this generous act, meaning that hair loss does not have to be an inevitable part of chemotherapy treatment for future patients. It’s a true legacy for both Roz and Sue.”

Ends

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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