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## **RUH team scoops Patient Safety Team of the Year accolade**

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust has been awarded top honours at this year's 2020 Patient Safety Awards for its work in caring for patients with sepsis and acute kidney injury.

The hospital's Sepsis and Kidney Injury Prevention (SKIP) team was awarded the coveted Patient Safety Team of the Year by the Health Service Journal (HSJ).

Over 1,000 guests tuned in to the Patient Safety Awards this year, which took a virtual format, to celebrate the very best achievements and innovations to minimise risk, enhance quality of care and save lives.

The SKIP team was recognised for its ambition, visionary spirit and the demonstrable positive impact it has had on patient and staff experiences within the health sector.

Sepsis and Kidney Injury are common causes of in-hospital patient deterioration. The SKIP team was recognised for its work to identify deterioration as early as possible, allowing clinicians to make quick decisions about life-saving treatment. Patients have a much better outcome when treatment is received promptly after they show signs of sepsis.

The team also introduced innovative campaigns to drive improvements and raise awareness among staff across the hospital.

Award judges said: "This winning project is an amazing and inspiring piece of work which clearly demonstrates the desire to improve outcomes for patients. There were impressive results, showing improvements in safety across a range of indicators, and great methods of engaging staff. The judges felt that this displayed fantastic learning which should be rolled out nationally."

Chair:  
Alison Ryan

Interim Chief Executive:  
Libby Walters



Dr Lesley Jordan, RUH Consultant Anaesthetist and Patient Safety Lead, said: “These improvements have been achieved as a result of the exceptionally hard work and dedication of many multidisciplinary staff and I am absolutely delighted that this has been recognised nationally. I’m very proud to work with such an amazing team and this will provide a fantastic boost to morale in the current times.”

Sally Marden, Lead SKIP Nurse, said: “The SKIP team is so proud to receive this award. I wish to thank all the ward staff who have attended the teaching sessions and have been receptive to change in practice to keep our sepsis patients safe and improve their outcomes. This award is a true reflection of their hard work.”

Sepsis is a life-threatening reaction to an infection, when a person’s immune system overreacts and starts to damage the body’s tissues and organs. Acute kidney injury is when a person’s kidneys suddenly stop working properly, usually as complication of an acute illness, and this can range from minor loss of kidney function to complete kidney failure. These can have serious consequences and early detection of both conditions is really important to improve outcomes for patients.

## Ends

### Notes to Editor:

The World Health Organization has designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> 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

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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)