



Royal United Hospitals Bath

NHS Foundation Trust

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Media Release

Free Wi-Fi for patients at Royal United Hospital

Patients at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust can now stream music, films and browse the internet for free thanks to new unlimited Wi-Fi.

Patients can use their mobile phones, tablets and laptops to connect to the NHS Wi-Fi and access services like Netflix, iPlayer and online radio, including Bath Radio, the hospital's own station.

Those patients who don't have their own mobile device can still access television and radio through the existing Hospedia entertainment units, though there is a charge for using this service.

Sharon Manhi, Head of Patient and Carer Experience at the RUH, said: "We're delighted that our patients can now access free unlimited Wi-Fi during their stay with us and browse the internet, watch a film or listen to music to keep themselves entertained. It's important that patients are stimulated and engaged while in hospital and we recognise that the last year has been particularly difficult as they haven't been able to have visitors, and very few volunteers have been coming to the hospital, which breaks up the long day."

The new Wi-Fi access is in addition to the hospital's innovative audiobooks scheme for patients, particularly those patients with dementia, which has proved very successful and has been copied by other hospitals around the country. The audiobooks, from the hospital's Academy Library, allow patients to listen to plays and TV and radio shows during their stay.

Ends

Chair:
Alison Ryan

Chief Executive:
Cara Charles-Barks



Notes to Editor:

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