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Media Release

New state of the art equipment for RUH's radiotherapy patients

Modern, cutting-edge technology that will make radiotherapy treatment for patients quicker and more comfortable has been installed at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust.

In what has been a major improvement project for the hospital, a new Truebeam Linear Accelerator has been installed in the radiotherapy department, replacing old equipment.

The state of the art machine can deliver radiotherapy treatment faster for cancer patients and uses advanced techniques to deliver treatment with even better accuracy.

The machine will also help clinical staff by delivering clearer images of scans.

To prepare for the arrival of the new equipment, a huge project has taken place on site to upgrade one of the RUH's radiotherapy treatment rooms.

The eight-month project has seen around 180 tonnes of steel installed in the walls of the room to increase radiation protection for patients and staff and fit out the room for clinical use.

The Medical Physics Radiotherapy team has now begun the process of commissioning the new equipment and it should be ready for use for patients in spring 2023.

Lisa Tolson, Radiotherapy Service Manager, said: "The new equipment is a fantastic addition to the RUH's Radiotherapy department and will be of real benefit to the people we care for.

"We have around 1,300 patients going through radiotherapy treatment with us each year and this new equipment will help many of them to be treated more quickly than before.

"I'd like to thank everyone at the RUH who has worked so hard on this project – it really will make such a positive difference to so many people."

The new linear accelerator cost £2million and was funded by NHS England.

Radiotherapy can be used to treat cancerous and non-cancerous tumours in almost any part of the body. It uses high energy radiation, usually x-rays or electrons, to stop cancer cells from dividing properly and as a result they are destroyed.

Ends

Notes to Editor:

At the RUH we're proud to put people at the heart of what we do, striving to create an environment where everyone matters. Everyone means the people we care for, the people we work with and the people in our community.

We provide a wide range of services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

We also provide specialist services for rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME via the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases which we acquired in 2015.

In 2021, we acquired Sulis Hospital Bath, an independent hospital that provides care for both private and NHS patients. This has enabled us to provide more care for NHS patients, as well as continuing to provide private care to those who choose it. Any additional income earned through private care is reinvested in services for the benefit of the people we care for at both Sulis and the RUH.

We're currently building a new Cancer Centre at the RUH. The Dyson Cancer Centre, which is set to open in autumn 2023, will help transform the care we provide for patients, families and carers.

We work closely with other health and care organisations as members of the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board. We strive to improve the health and wellbeing of the people in our community by working together build one of the healthiest places to live and work.

We are rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk