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Media Release

Mum thanks RUH for ‘life-changing’ hip replacement surgery

A busy mum-of-five who received a hip replacement at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust and was able to return home the very same day has thanked the hospital for the ‘life-changing’ surgery.

Katie Woodall, 38, was the first patient at the RUH to have the major arthroplasty surgery and return back home the same day. Getting patients home as soon as they are well enough to leave the hospital can play a big part in aiding their recovery.

The Salford mum said: “The surgery has been genuinely life-changing – I feel I’ve got my life back.

“I can do simple things again that I couldn’t do before. I’m able to walk my kids to school and go to the park with them. I’m so grateful.

“Since the operation at the RUH I’ve felt like a new person. When I woke up in the recovery room after my operation I was crying happy tears – I could already tell that the constant pain I’d had for so long had gone.

“I was receiving physiotherapy within two hours of returning to the ward and was back home later the same day, which I thought was fantastic.

“There’s still a lot of recovery work ahead and more physio, but I’m already walking with just one crutch and my mobility has improved considerably.

“I’m actually having to teach myself to walk properly again, I’ve spent that long struggling to walk and always in so much pain.”

Katie was full of praise for the care she had received at the RUH.

“It was fantastic,” she said. “The staff were so welcoming and reassuring and were always on hand to help. I’m so grateful for everything they’ve done.”

Katie’s surgeon, Rohit Dhawan, said: “All of the surgical team are delighted to hear what a positive difference this operation has made to Katie’s life.

“This is the first time we have completed this type of surgery and been able to get the patient home on the same day - it really is a great achievement.

“We understand that patients want to get home as soon as they can and we find that they recover better at home too, so hopefully this will become a more common outcome for patients receiving hip and other joint replacements at the RUH.”

Sulis Hospital Bath, a fully operational independent hospital owned by the RUH which treats both NHS and private patients, launched its groundbreaking same-day joint replacement pathway in 2022, paving the way for enhanced patient recovery across the region.

This has seen the average length of stay at Sulis for patients undergoing hip and knee joint replacements decreased from 2.6 days to just 1.1 days, ensuring a quicker return to the comforts of home.

There has also been significant growth in same-day discharges at Sulis - only one patient was discharged on the same day in July 2022, compared to 33 patients in July 2023.

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.



Royal United Hospitals Bath
NHS Foundation Trust

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