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Media Release

Appeal for women to check for signs of ovarian cancer

A Wiltshire mum who was treated for ovarian cancer at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust is appealing to women to get themselves checked if they have any symptoms of the disease.

Following surgery and a course of chemotherapy, Kirsty Treen, 39, from Chippenham, no longer has any visible evidence of disease, although she remains under surveillance at the RUH.

She said: “My message to other women would be to listen to your body and make sure you get checked if something doesn’t feel right – please don’t ignore what might be symptoms of something serious.”

Kirsty visited her GP in March 2024 – Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month - after experiencing a bloated stomach which was sore to touch and having some unexpected bleeding too.

“At first my GP thought it could simply be down to me being a bit run down and tired, or perhaps an infection, but I was worried it was something else, so I got a second opinion and was booked in for a scan at the RUH the next day,” she said.

“The scan showed a mass which the radiologists were concerned about and I was quickly put on a cancer treatment pathway. Although it hadn’t been confirmed as cancer at this stage, when I heard that word my whole world just fell down around me.

“I remember just standing in the hospital car park after my appointment in a daze, it was overwhelming.”

Further hospital appointments and a biopsy confirmed that Kirsty had ovarian cancer.

She underwent 11 hours of surgery where she had a full hysterectomy and spent a total of two weeks in hospital to recover. This was followed by four months of chemotherapy.

“It was a really difficult time but I’ve come through it and now I just want to make sure women take the time to find out more about ovarian cancer and the symptoms,” said Kirsty.

“I was diagnosed in Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and only really knew about the symptoms as a friend of mine had been posting about them on social media in memory of her mum, who had died from the disease. That information probably saved my life.

“So please do listen to your body, trust your intuition and get yourself checked out – the earlier this type of cancer is diagnosed and treated, the better your outcome will be.”

Kirsty thanked the RUH team who had cared for her. “I can’t fault a single person that I’ve come into contact with at the hospital, they have all been fantastic.

“The care and support I’ve received throughout my whole treatment has been wonderful.”

Ovarian cancer mostly affects women over the age of 50 and it can affect anyone who has ovaries.

You can still get ovarian cancer if you’ve had your ovaries removed because it can also affect your fallopian tubes, or the lining inside your tummy.

Symptoms of ovarian cancer include frequently (roughly 12 or more times a month) having:

- a swollen tummy or feeling bloated
- pain or tenderness in your tummy or the area between the hips (pelvis)
- no appetite or feeling full quickly after eating
- an urgent need to pee or needing to pee more often

You can find out more on the NHS website - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/ovarian-cancer/symptoms/> - and there’s also more support and information available on the Target Ovarian Cancer charity website - <https://targetovariancancer.org.uk/>

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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.

Our new Dyson Cancer Centre brings together many of the RUH's cancer services under one roof to provide a cancer services hub for over 500,000 people in the South West. The centre includes the RUH's oncology, chemotherapy and radiotherapy services, a 22-bed inpatient ward, a dedicated pharmacy, research team and nuclear medicine and physics teams.

A key feature of the new centre is the Macmillan Wellbeing Hub. The three-storey hub provides a welcoming, non-clinical space designed around the needs of patients and their families. It also includes comfortable accommodation where relatives and loved ones can stay overnight.

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