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## Media Release

### RUH robotic cancer surgery patient back home same day

A prostate cancer patient who underwent major robotic surgery at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust has been discharged home the very same day - helping the hospital to further improve patient experience and free up beds.

Patient Eddie Harvey, 67, had a successful robotic radical prostatectomy before returning home to Corsham that day – only the second time an RUH patient has been able to have this type of surgery and return home on the same day.

A radical prostatectomy is a surgical procedure that removes the prostate gland and some surrounding tissue to treat prostate cancer. It's the primary treatment for prostate cancer that hasn't spread beyond the prostate.

The procedure was carried out by a surgical team using the RUH's Da Vinci surgical robot, which has been funded by the hospital's charity, RUHX, thanks to the generosity of their extraordinary supporters.

The robot helps RUH surgeons to operate on patients with even greater precision, and perform complex procedures with minimal access, while ensuring the highest levels of patient safety.

Eddie said: "I was referred to the RUH by my GP after a check-up, and an MRI scan at the hospital showed there was suspicion of cancer in my prostate. I then had prostate biopsies which confirmed it. Within a couple of weeks I was having the surgery. Everything moved really quickly, I was so impressed.

"I arrived at hospital at 7am on the morning of the operation and was back home later that night. I was a bit surprised but delighted that I could be back home in my own bed that same day.

“There was no pressure on me to go home that day, but I felt good and had complete trust in the surgeon who I knew wouldn’t have let me leave if he didn’t think I was ready to.

“I know that being discharged on the same day for this kind of surgery isn’t going to be possible for everyone, but for those who are eligible it’s fantastic.

“I can’t speak highly enough about my surgeon and everyone I came into contact with at the RUH. Everyone was brilliant and so supportive.

“My advice to men would be to get yourself examined by your GP, especially as symptoms for prostate cancer can develop slowly, so you may not see any noticeable symptoms for many years.”

Ayman Ali, Consultant Urological and Robotic Surgeon, who led the surgery, said: “This really is a fantastic achievement for the RUH and will hopefully be the start of many similar operations where patients can now return home the same day.

“This is now possible due to the use of the robot, which provides better precision and accuracy which also enhances recovery times too.

“While same day discharge will not be suitable for all patients, we know that being at home can aid patient recovery and lead to better outcomes for the people we care for.

“It builds on the success of establishment the robotic radical prostatectomy service in late 2023 at the RUH, which I have had the privilege of introducing and leading. Over 130 patients have now successfully had this surgery, delivering excellent outcomes for the people we care for.

“I would like to say a huge thank you to our dedicated surgical and anaesthetic team, nursing staff in our Day Surgery Unit, and Urology specialist nurses who have made this milestone possible.

“This accomplishment is a testament to our shared commitment to innovation and delivering exceptional patient-centered care.”

The surgical robot is now used in a range of surgeries at the RUH, including gynaecology oncology and colorectal operations.

To find out more about the difference surgical robots can make to patient care, [watch our video](#).

You can find out more about the symptoms and treatment of prostate cancer on the NHS website - [www.nhs.uk/conditions/prostate-cancer/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/prostate-cancer/)

**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.

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](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)