

PRESS RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 00.01am Thursday 15th October 2009

2008/09 NHS performance ratings for the Min

The Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust, also known as the Min, fully met all existing commitments and scored a rating of excellent for meeting national priorities set by the Government in the 2008/09 Care Quality Commission's (CQC) NHS performance ratings.

In order to do this, the hospital had to fully meet assessments against the following areas; standard of care, hospital cleanliness, whether patients are treated with dignity and respect, and how long patients wait to be seen.

392 NHS Trusts across England have been rated by the CQC using a four point system; 'excellent', 'good', 'fair' or 'weak', in two areas; quality of services and quality of financial management.

The RNHRD has been rated 'fair' for quality of financial management and 'good' for quality of services.

The hospital fully met 51 of the 54 standards it was assessed on for quality of services, and took action to ensure it had addressed areas of partial compliance by June 09.

The Trust has an excellent infection prevention and control record and has one of the lowest rates of Healthcare Associated Infection in the country with no cases of MRSA bloodstream infection attributed to the Trust for over two years. The Trust has also has consistently low rates of Clostridium Difficile.

Kirsty Matthews, Interim Chief Executive at the Min said

"We were expecting the rating for quality of financial management to be 'fair' as the Trust remains in a challenging financial position, however the Trust ended the 08/09 financial year with a small surplus.

"We have already addressed the areas highlighted in the 08/09 performance ratings and our patients can be confident that they will continue to receive high quality services, provided in a safe environment and delivered by experts.

"Staff at every level in our organisation strive to maintain high standards and strive to ensure a positive experience for those people who need our specialist services.

"Our hospital is consistently rated highly by our patients who demonstrated a high level of satisfaction with their overall care through the CQCs 08/09 national patient survey, which scored the RNHRD amongst the top 20% of Trusts in the country for seeking patients' views on the quality of their care, and treating patients with dignity and respect."

ENDS

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Notes to editors

The RNHRD NHS Foundation Trust is a national hospital specialising in complex rheumatology and rehabilitation. Services include

- General and specialist rheumatology
- Neuro rehabilitation
- Chronic Pain management
- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME
- www.rnhrd.nhs.uk

The Care Quality Commission is the independent regulator of health and social care in England. www.cqc.org.uk