

24th March 2009

PRESS RELEASE

Healthcare Commission reinstates 'excellent' rating for quality of services for the RNHRD NHS FT

Following a formal review of the original rating by the Healthcare Commission the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD), also known as the Min, has been rated 'excellent' for quality of services.

This sees the RNHRD return to 'excellent' for quality of services, a rating it has maintained since the Annual Health Checks began in 2006.

"We are delighted with the Healthcare Commission's decision. This is fantastic news for our staff and patients and reflects what our patients say about us." said Peter Hill, Chief Executive at the RNHRD.

Initially the Healthcare Commission gave the hospital a rating of 'fair' for the quality of services component of the Annual Health Check when the results were announced in October 2008.

The hospital fully met all core standards and existing national targets set by the Government, meeting assessments against; standard of care, hospital cleanliness, whether patients are treated with dignity and respect, and good management.

Despite fully meeting 52 of the 53 areas in which the Trust was assessed for quality of services, the RNHRD could only achieve a rating of 'fair' as it was deemed to fail on one item in the category for meeting new national targets. The Trust asked for an official review of this rating in November 2008.

"The Trust met this target but there was an issue regarding data completeness for the 18-week referral to treatment time milestone, which was due to data interpretation outside of our control." explains Peter.

The Healthcare Commission now agrees that the Trust fully met all national targets.

The Trust was an early achiever in the 18-week referral to treatment times target and achieved this well ahead of the December 2008 deadline set by the Government.

Peter continues, "The RNHRD has an excellent clinical reputation and we pride ourselves on the high quality of care we provide to our patients. Everyone in our hospital works hard to deliver excellent care in a safe, clean environment and now our rating accurately reflects this."

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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 Healthcare commission is the health watchdog in England. This is the third annual health check published by the Healthcare Commission. The health check was carried out for the first time in 2006, replacing star ratings. All NHS Trusts are rated by the Healthcare Commission using a four point system; 'excellent', 'good', 'fair' or 'weak' www.healthcarecommission.org.uk