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Press Release

HOSPITAL EMPHASISES VIGILANCE AS IT MARKS NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY WEEK

Bath's Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) NHS Foundation Trust, locally known as 'the Min' is marking National Patient Safety Week, Sept 12 – 18 by highlighting the measures it has taken to improve patient safety and promoting constant vigilance to ensure standards are maintained.

Highlights of the hospital's record include:

- a minimum of 27 patient safety 'measures of care' have been introduced at the RNHRD since 2009 to allow analysis of the quality of patient safety on an ongoing basis
- improvements in care are monitored to ensure sustainability by use of the hospital's own unique audit tool, "Vital Aspects of Nursing Care"
- as a result of a 'bare below elbows' hand washing initiative, the proportion of staff remaining bare below the elbows to aid thorough hand washing and improve hygiene has increased from 55% in July 2010 to 91% in August 2011
- the RNHRD Foundation Trust is 1 of 25 in UK with no MRSA bacteraemia in 2010-2011.

The theme of the patient safety week is '**It starts with me**' to recognise the role each member of staff plays and the difference each person can make to safer care. The Min is promoting the week and the ongoing priority of hygiene and patient safety.

Chief executive, Kirsty Matthews said: "At the RNHRD we are proud of our excellent record on patient safety. We are never complacent and know that maintaining our high standards is down to constant vigilance by all of us, individually and as a team."

ENDS

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Notes for Editors:

- The RNHRD NHS FT is a national specialist rehabilitation and rheumatology hospital based in Bath. Offering services to adults, children and young people the Trust has expertise in general and complex:
 - Rheumatological and musculoskeletal conditions
 - Neurological rehabilitation
 - Chronic pain management
 - Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME
 - www.rnhrd.nhs.uk