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## Press Release

### **RNHRD PRAISED FOR ABILITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PATIENTS WITH DEMENTIA**

The Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases Foundation Trust (RNHRD), known locally as the 'Min' has been praised following a peer review site visit by the South West Hospital Standards in Dementia Review Team.

The review team praised the good level of awareness of the needs of people with dementia, commitment to care for those with dementia and the strong clinical leadership evident at the Bath based hospital.

As part of a comprehensive programme of visits to observe treatment and care settings the peer review team looked at the eight standards designed to drive improvement in the care of people with dementia and identified many areas of good practice across the hospital including:

- The presence of four appropriately trained dementia champions, who have special training and focus on improving dementia care
- The delivery of highly personalised patient care
- Ready availability of relevant literature and information on dementia
- Minimising patient movements between wards
- Detailed assessment for nutrition and feeding of patients and protected meal times
- Carers and families welcomed and encouraged to assist with meals and social activities if they wished

The team noted the 'calm ambience and atmosphere on the wards' and 'highly personalised and holistic assessments and care for all patients.'

Kirsty Matthews, Chief Executive Officer at the 'Min' welcomed the findings and said: "We are delighted that the review team recognised our willingness and ability to adapt and respond to meet the needs of patients with dementia. We pride ourselves on offering dignified patient centred care in a clean and safe environment.

We will continue to work hard to maintain these standards. This is a tremendous result for the hospital and reflects how we work across the organisation to ensure we can provide the best possible care for all our patients."

**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.mhrd.nhs.uk](http://www.mhrd.nhs.uk)
  
- The South West Standards for Dementia Care in Hospital have been developed in response to concerns expressed about poor quality care experienced by people with a dementia when they are in hospital:
  - Standard 1: People with a dementia are assured respect, dignity and appropriate care
  - Standard 2: Agreed assessment, admission and discharge processes are in place, with care plans specific to meet the individual needs of people with a dementia and their carer.
  - Standard 3: People with a dementia or suspected cognitive impairment who are admitted to hospital, and their carers/families have access to a specialist mental health liaison service
  - Standard 4: The hospital and ward environment is dementia-friendly, minimising the number of ward and unit moves within the hospital setting and between hospitals
  - Standard 5: The nutrition and hydration needs of people with a dementia are well met
  - Standard 6: The hospital and wards promote the contribution of volunteers to the well-being of people with a dementia in hospital
  - Standard 7: The hospital and wards ensure quality of care at the end of life
  - Standard 8: Appropriate training and workforce development are in place to promote and enhance the care of people with dementia in general and community hospitals, and their carers/families
  
- Further information can be found on the South West Dementia Partnership website, which brings together organisations from health and social care, the voluntary sector and people using dementia services to drive forward improvements in dementia care. <http://www.southwestdementiapartnership.org.uk/>