



25th Nov 2012

ROYAL NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR RHEUMATIC DISEASES NHS FOUNDATION TRUST LAUNCHES TWO NEW SERVICES FOR CANCER SURVIVORS

Two award winning new services for cancer survivors are having a joint launch celebration at the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust (known locally as ‘the Min’) on Wednesday, 28 November 2012.

Clinicians, patients and supporters from across the country will be gathering in Bath to mark the official launch of two new services developed by the RNHRD to address the fact that the impact of cancer does not suddenly stop when treatment is over.

The ‘Step Up’ service is a partnership between Macmillan Cancer Support and the RNHRD, providing support specifically for those who have completed their primary cancer treatment and may be experiencing fatigue. Fatigue can be a very disabling side effect of cancer or its treatments, and the Step Up service provides assessment and evidence based treatments to lessen the impact upon daily life.

Anne Johnson, joint speciality lead for the ‘Step Up’ service says “Some cancer survivors will experience fatigue that has a significant impact on their ability to perform everyday tasks or return to work, even a long time after active treatment. Our partnership with Macmillan allows us to use our expertise in fatigue management to give a really positive boost to this group of people and enable them to ‘step up’ to the challenge of life beyond cancer. “

The Breast Radiation Injury Rehabilitation Service (BRIRS) is a national service for men and women who are experiencing pain from injury following radiotherapy for breast cancer, often called ‘late effects’. Clinicians help to deliver improvement in pain and quality of life for those individuals suffering with complex and long term conditions as a result of radiation induced injury. The risk factors that led to these injuries are well understood today and are now carefully avoided.

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Funding for the service was secured from the National Specialist Commissioning Team, and the project is endorsed by the Macmillan Cancer Support, and the National Cancer Action Team.

The Bath based RNHRD will lead the service which will be available nationally. The RNHRD will work in conjunction with the Royal United Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Bath, Bart's Health NHS Trust, London and The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester. Together they will provide long term rehabilitation support, including specialist intensive therapies for the complex healthcare needs of this group of people.

Professor Candy McCabe, Consultant Nurse at the RNHRD and BRIRS service lead says: "For those experiencing this rare but debilitating condition there can be a wide range of symptoms. No two patients are alike so a multidisciplinary approach is essential. We provide a tailored service that meets the specific healthcare needs of these individuals, ensuring regular and quick access to a highly specialised team who understand their condition and healthcare needs."

Both of these new services are highly specialised, and aim to make day to day life easier for those living with and beyond cancer as well as providing a valuable opportunity to meet with other cancer survivors and share experiences.

Macmillan Development Manager in the South West Maggie Crowe says; 'There are two million people living with cancer today, and by 2030 there will be four million people living with cancer. With the provision of services like this, the RNRHD and Macmillan are helping to meet the growing needs of those people.'

The joint celebration is due to take place on Wednesday 28 November, 6 - 8pm at the RNHRD, Upper Borough Walls, Bath.

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Anyone who wishes to find out more about either of the services can go to www.rnhrd.nhs.uk .

BRIS service referrals should be directed to Professor Candy McCabe, Consultant Nurse, RNHRD, Bath.

Step Up service referrals should be directed to the referrals Co-ordinator, RNHRD Bath tel 01225 473456

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Notes for Editors:

- **Media attendance welcome –please contact Caroline Kenny to arrange**
- **Service users available for further comment/interview if required**
- **BRIRS service lead Professor Candy McCabe available for further comment/interview**
- **Step Up Service leads Anne Johnson and Nikie Catchpole available for further comment/interview**

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
- Fatigue Management
- www.rnhrd.nhs.uk