

3rd May 2013

Press Release

RNHRD: CONTINUING TO PROVIDE SPECIALIST SERVICES TO LOCAL AND NATIONAL PATIENTS

Following the widely reported closure of the Neuro Rehabilitation service at the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust (RNHRD), the Board would like to reassure patients, partners and the public that other services provided by the hospital continue to operate as normal.

The Bath based hospital, known locally as the 'Min' offers rheumatology, chronic pain management and fatigue management services to adults, children and young people locally and nationally. These are specialisms in which the hospital has a national or international reputation for research and treatment programmes. The hospital also offers a range of diagnostic services including endoscopies, flexible sigmoidoscopies and bone density measurement.

Chief Executive Kirsty Matthews said: "Although neurological rehabilitation services are no longer provided at the Hospital there has been no change to our other core services. We want to ensure that all our patients and referring health care professionals are confident about their ability to access these services. Patients should continue to attend the Hospital for their treatments and referrers should continue to send new patients to us."

"As well as continuing with established services the hospital is using its expertise to develop new services to address specific health issues. New services at the RNHRD include a fatigue management service for those living beyond cancer, and a rehabilitation service for those suffering radiation damage from breast cancer treatment in the past."

"The Min continues to deliver against its reputation for excellent patient experience. A recent survey by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) reported high levels of satisfaction amongst inpatients at the Min, with the Trust found to be performing better than most other trusts in the country in seven of the eight categories of the survey, including the highest trust score in 'overall views and experience.'

As we plan for our future we will continue to keep people informed on our plans; in the meantime our organisation continues to provide the excellent standards of care for which we are renowned”

Ends

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Notes to 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
 - Chronic pain management
 - Fatigue Management (CFS/ME and cancer survivorship fatigue)
 - www.rnhrd.nhs.uk