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Press Release

RNHRD HELPING TO DRIVE AN INCREASE IN NHS CLINICAL RESEARCH

The Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust (RNHRD) is amongst those hospitals spearheading an increase in clinical research, according to a new league table published by the National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network.

The Bath based RNHRD, known locally as the 'Min' has an international reputation for research, the hospital carried out 22 clinical research studies in 2012/13, involving 710 patients. This is an increase on the 434 patients who took part in 19 studies carried out in 2011/12.

Jane Carter, Research and Development Manager at the RNHRD says: "It has always been a core principal of the Min to combine clinical research and development with high quality patient care. We are delighted to have more than a fifty per cent increase in the number of patients taking part in research projects. Clinical research plays a critical role in gathering evidence to improve treatments and care for patients in the NHS."

The RNHRD clinical research projects currently underway include clinical trials into rheumatological conditions such as Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriatic Arthritis, Ankylosing Spondylitis and Connective Tissue Diseases.

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The Trust also conducts research into Fatigue Management and Chronic Pain conditions including Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) for which two new trials will be commencing shortly.

Dr Jonathan Sheffield, Chief Executive of the National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network says: “Patients always tell us how important it is for the NHS to take part in clinical research. I would like to congratulate the Trusts in Bath for increasing the number of studies they do locally, and helping to bring research opportunities to patients.”

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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
- More information about the NIHR is available at: <http://www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk/>
- The clinical research league table is available at: www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk/nhs-performance