

News Release

8 February 2008

Princess Anne opens new renal unit

HRH The Princess Royal officially opened a new department of Dorset County Hospital's county-wide renal service.

A new state-of-the-art dialysis unit is now up and running in Poole at the Fulcrum Business Park in Poole.

Princess Anne visited the unit to perform the official opening ceremony on Thursday, February 7.

The unit offers 20 additional dialysis stations, which supplement the satellite unit at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital and the main unit at Dorset County Hospital in Dorchester.

Dorset County Hospital provides the renal dialysis service for patients throughout the county.

Renal consultant Dr Jo Taylor said the new unit could accommodate up to 120 patients and included special isolation stations to maximise patient safety.

She added: "All patients are treated by online haemodiafiltration, a new technique that provides highly efficient dialysis and thus improves patient wellbeing and long-term outcomes – in particular in relation to phosphate and anaemia control.

"All treatments are computerised to avoid prescription errors and to enable quicker and more efficient delivery of treatment."

Chairman of Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Robin Sequeira added: "This Unit is the culmination of the Trust's long-term plan to localise the provision of renal care.

"It also represents a good example of public and private partnership which involves a healthcare company, Fresenius, providing the building and support services and the NHS providing high quality clinical care through our renal consultants and specialist nursing staff."

Tony Kirby, Chairman of the Dorset Kidney Fund, said he was delighted with the opening of the new Poole unit: "As two thirds of the renal patients in Dorset come from Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch, it is very appropriate to have a new unit sited in Poole."

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