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The Royal Bournemouth and
Christchurch Hospitals 
NHS Foundation Trust

Update on the interim transfer of oncology beds to Poole Hospital

January 2014

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History of transfer

- interim bed transfer commenced 1st November 2012
- four beds closed at RBH and transferred to Poole Hospital (PHT) with six beds opening
- interim move put in place due to acute shortage of medical staff
- consultant cover already provided across both sites by PHT
- issues with supervision of junior medical staff
- trusts had planned to merge

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Current position

- recruitment of medical staff still very difficult, one middle grade and one junior doctor post vacant.
- medical cover difficult to maintain even with agency use.
- decision to merge not approved by competition authorities
- day case and outpatient treatments still at both sites.

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Number of inpatients for West Hants CCG

	2013	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
West Hants	Inpatient	9	6	7	4	5	12	2	5	9	59
	Daycase	1	3	3	1	1	1	3	5	1	19

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The Trust is now consulting with patients and stakeholders on the permanent move of inpatient oncology beds to Poole Hospital.

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Patient benefits of permanent transfer

- increased consultant presence for inpatient care, implementation of consultant of the week
- sharing of medical staffing across both sites, increasing business continuity
- three tier on call now in operation including middle grades
- enhanced supervision and training of medical staff
- minimal patient complaints
- reduced length of stay, 4.2 to 3.9 days average