

Swift and safe CT and Fluoroscopy procedures to benefit Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust patients.

The Royal Victoria Infirmary (RVI), part of The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, is upgrading its CT capabilities with state-of-the-art technology from Siemens Healthcare. The SOMATOM® Force will allow the Hospital's patients to be imaged quickly and easily at the lowest achievable dose. It will also allow patients to be administered with a lower quantity of contrast agent which results in a safer procedure. Along with a new CT system, the hospital is also installing an Artis zee™ Multi-Purpose (MP) from Siemens Healthcare which will be used for general fluoroscopy procedures.

The Trust has one of the most diverse speciality portfolios in the United Kingdom, comprising of expertise in many areas including paediatrics, cardiology and trauma. The RVI site is home to a Major Trauma Centre and The Great North Children's Hospital; the SOMATOM Force will be used to support CT scan referrals from these areas in addition to many other specialities. The CT technology was chosen for its dual source capabilities, and the ability to use low KV routinely on all patients, delivering both lower radiation doses and significantly lower contrast media usage. It is hoped that the rapid imaging will lead to increased turnaround times, which is anticipated will lead to a boost in productivity at the hospital.

“We are delighted to be one of the first Hospitals in the UK to install the latest CT technology from Siemens Healthcare; the Force will provide benefits to a wide range of our patients with its low dose features and the ability to use a lower volume of contrast agent,” states Graeme Hughes, Radiology Service Manager at the Trust. “The system will be fully utilised for a variety of general CT procedures and will allow us to enhance the Trust's Cardiac CT workload due to its rapid imaging capabilities.”

The Artis zee MP Fluoroscopy system was chosen due to its multi-purpose functionality which suits the diverse imaging needs of the Hospital and Trust. The system was chosen due to its CARE+CLEAR features, which provide a range of image-quality and dose-saving tools.

The purchase of these systems was supported by a generous charitable donation of £418,000 from the Newcastle Healthcare Charity, which administers charitable funds from a variety of Trust Charities.

Russell Lodge, CT Business Manager at Siemens Healthcare states, "Since Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust became two sites rather than three, the RVI has experienced an increased workload. The Force and Artis zee MP are supporting this by providing swift and efficient imaging, providing enhanced capacity and enabling faster turnaround times. The Hospital will also benefit from Turbo Flash Mode on the system which allows free breathing and rapid imaging for those who may have trouble holding their breath such as children or the elderly."

Siemens Healthcare is one of the world's largest suppliers to the healthcare industry and a trendsetter in medical imaging, laboratory diagnostics, medical information technology and hearing aids. Siemens offers its customers products and solutions for the entire range of patient care from a single source – from prevention and early detection to diagnosis, and on to treatment and aftercare. By optimising clinical workflows for the most common diseases, Siemens also makes healthcare faster, better and more cost-effective. Siemens Healthcare employs some 52,000 employees worldwide and operates around the world www.siemens.co.uk/healthcare.

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Media contacts

Laura Bennett
Tel: 07808 823598
Email: laura.bennett@siemens.com

Holly Wale / Ben Veal
Tel: 01225 471202
Email: hollyw@mediasafari.co.uk

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Picture caption: The Royal Victoria Infirmary is replacing its CT system with the state-of-the-art SOMATOM® Force from Siemens Healthcare which will allow the hospital's patients to be imaged quickly and easily whilst providing the lowest achievable dose.



About Siemens

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