



*Press Release*

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**Cross-department Pain Management Service Key to a Positive Patient Experience**

*- Beacon Hospital Rolls Out Pain Management Team -*

Beacon Hospital's recent introduction of a Pain Management Team will improve the quality of pain management for patients at the hospital. The Pain Medicine Team comprises a dedicated Pain Nurse, Pain Medicine Physicians, Pain Psychologist and a Neurosurgeon. The hospital-wide, Acute Pain Service will be led by Dr. John Magner, Chief of Anaesthesiology at the hospital and will be supported by a cross-department team. The Chronic Pain Service is being co-ordinated by Dr. Raymond Victory, Consultant in Pain Medicine, and this had involved multidisciplinary pain assessments and multidisciplinary team meetings. The hospital's recent appointment of a dedicated Pain Nurse, Rachel McCluskey, also confirms the hospital's commitment to delivering an integrated pain management service for patients.

In keeping with international best practice the Pain Management Team will include the development of centre-wide policies and procedures relating to pain management. An interdisciplinary approach will be adopted throughout the hospital allowing members of staff with the relevant expertise to treat patients across various departments and serve as the hospital's resident experts on matters relating to pain management.

Commenting on the establishment of the Pain Management Team, Dr. John Magner said, "Our cross department approach will enable patients to benefit from a wide range of

medical and pain management expertise. We are committed to providing patients with the very best in pain management care and this team will facilitate this”.

Pain Nurse, Rachel McCluskey, will be responsible for the provision of comprehensive and specialised nursing care for patients in need of pain management and will ensure patients at Beacon Hospital benefit from excellent nursing care. Rachel and the team will also oversee the design and implementation of the pain management education programme for staff, patients and families.

Referring to the department liaison nurse, Ms. McCluskey said, “It is important our liaison nurses communicate with the families of patients so that they too understand the course of treatment prescribed for their loved ones”. The liaison nurses in each hospital department will work with the Anaesthetists to support the pain management of patients within their departments.

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### **About Beacon Hospital**

The 238,000 sq ft, nine-floor Beacon Hospital was opened in October 2006, and provides world-class acute care services, including heart surgery, neuro-surgery, and emergency medicine services. Beacon Hospital has eight operating theatres, two endoscopy suites and fourteen critical care beds. The eight operating theatres are divided into dedicated rooms for neurosurgery, urology, cardiac, general, orthopaedic and ophthalmic surgery.

The Critical Care Unit is a fourteen-bed unit with individual glass-fronted cubicles, in order to ensure privacy and to minimise the risk of infection. The open plan design allows for visibility of all patients at all times.

Beacon Hospital opened its Consultant-delivered Emergency Department at Beacon Hospital in March 2007. Beacon Emergency Department is the first Emergency Department in the Eastern region attached to an independent hospital, giving patients immediate access to all of the major specialities on site, including some of the most advanced diagnostic and laboratory services available in the region, such as X-Ray, Ultrasound, CT, MRI, routine and specialised blood tests.

Beacon Cancer Centre offers an unparalleled range of cancer treatment and uniquely has key services such as diagnostics, surgery, chemotherapy, radiology, two state-of-the-art Linear Accelerators (LINACs), and follow-up under one roof.

The hospital has also introduced a dedicated Beacon Women's Centre, which encompasses the full spectrum of women's gynaecological needs in a modern environment, utilising minimally invasive procedures whenever possible, with a speedy turn around time for patients.

Beacon Hospital is the European showcase for General Electric (GE) equipment and is the only hospital in Ireland that has a full complement of the most advanced radiology equipment under one roof.

### **About UPMC**

UPMC, (University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre), is an integrated global health enterprise headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and one of the leading nonprofit health systems in the United States. As western Pennsylvania's largest employer with 48,000 employees and nearly \$7 billion in revenue, UPMC is transforming the economy of the region into one based on medicine, research and technology. By integrating 20 hospitals, 400 doctors' offices and outpatient sites, long-term care facilities and a major

insurance plan, UPMC has advanced the quality and efficiency of health care and developed internationally renowned programs in transplantation, cancer, neurosurgery, psychiatry, orthopaedics and sports medicine, among others. UPMC is commercializing its medical and technological expertise by nurturing new companies, developing strategic business relationships with some of the world's leading multi-national corporations, and expanding into international markets including Italy, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Qatar. For more information about UPMC, visit our website at [www.upmc.com](http://www.upmc.com) <<http://www.upmc.com>>.