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## Press Release

### **Hand-held robot to perform reconstructive surgery for the first time in the UK at Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital**

Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will be pioneering the use of a new piece of surgical equipment as surgeons at Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital will be the first in the UK to use a hand held robot for reconstructive surgery of the pelvis when they operate on a patient with gynaecological prolapse and bowel dysfunction on Friday, September 7.

The revolutionary advancement in robotic technology, called the Kymerax and developed by Terumo, is set to improve surgery across the country, bringing a host of benefits to the patient and surgeon. Kymerax offers a more precise and quick surgical procedure, with less invasive trauma to patients. The device is portable, which will mean it could be used across Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – Andover War Memorial Hospital, Royal Hampshire County Hospital and Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospitals.

Robots currently in use in UK hospitals are large, immobile and expensive (each costing around £1.8 million) with high running costs each time they are used. The new motorised, hand held surgical instrument costs significantly less £300-£400 per device - which should enable far more widespread use across the NHS. This means that more patients benefit from less invasive techniques, improved safety and recovery times that laparoscopic or 'key hole' surgery brings.

Held by hand during the operation, the Kymerax device allows the surgeon to combine the touch and feel of traditional surgery with the greater accuracy and dexterity of articulating instruments used in robotic surgery. It provides more flexibility than the human wrist, allowing more precise stitching and better recovery for the patient. The instrument tip moves in multiple directions to operate in areas that are difficult to approach, giving the surgeon better manoeuvrability and less fatigue than rigid laparoscopic (keyhole) instruments.

Hampshire Hospitals Consultant Surgeons Christian Phillips and Arcot Venkatsubramanium will carry out the operation on September 7. Mr Phillips is a consultant gynaecologist and Mr Venkatsubramanium is a consultant colorectal surgeon.

Mr Phillips said: "Our team is very excited about this latest technology and it's an honour to be the first in the UK to carry out reconstructive surgery on the pelvic floor using this device. It's the fusion of maintaining the feel and touch during an operation with the greater robotic articulation that makes it so special. This robot can do things not physically possible with a human wrist and gives you the best of both worlds".

Mr Myrddin Rees, director of surgical services, said: "Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has top ranking services and we constantly seek to innovate and be pioneers in many areas. We are proud to be at the forefront of technology developments in this area, but above all to be using a device which will improve surgery and recovery for our patients and those who will benefit in the future."

The Basingstoke based Pelican Foundation, which aims to improve education and treatment of bowel, liver, prostate and bladder cancers, are helping to evaluate the device which is to be trialled for further clinical use at Hampshire Hospitals.

Sarah Crane, CEO of The Pelican Cancer Foundation said: "This device is an exciting development in precision surgery. The cost and portability are extremely important factors which will mean that patients across the region can benefit from this surgical advancement."

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#### Notes to editors

- Photo opportunity of the surgeons with the instruments (not during the actual operation) during week beginning 3 September.
- Filming opportunity of the surgeons with the instruments (not during the actual operation) during week beginning 3 September.
- Interview opportunities.
- Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT) came into being on 9 January 2012 as a result of the integration of Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust (BNHFT) and Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust. BNHFT was authorised as a Foundation Trust in December 2006.
- Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust provides hospital services to a population of approximately 600,000 patients in Hampshire and parts of west Berkshire.
- HHFT has about 5,000 staff and a turnover of £300 million a year.
- HHFT delivers one hospital service across multiple locations including its own hospitals, Andover War Memorial Hospital, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital and Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester. It also provides outpatient and assessment services from Bordon and Alton community hospitals.
- As a Foundation Trust, HHFT is accountable to the local community through a system of local ownership with members and elected governors. HHFT has to date 18,600 staff and public members. Foundation Trusts are free from central government control and can reinvest any surplus to develop clinical services. They are authorised and regulated by Monitor, an independent regulator.

#### Media contact

Contact the communications team on (01256) 313062

E-mail: [communications@hhft.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@hhft.nhs.uk)