

**Report for Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel –
Monday 15 December 2025**

Uptake of flu vaccine among health and care workers

Since 1 September, frontline health and care workers, including those working in the region's hospitals, have been eligible for a free vaccination against the winter flu virus.

Statistics from NHS England, which are [available to view online](#), show that vaccination rates for health and care workers in each of the region's three localities of Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire are above the national average, which currently stands at 39.9 per cent.

At the Royal United Hospital in Bath, a total of 3,016 flu vaccinations have so far been carried out, which gives the trust an uptake rate of approximately 54 per cent.

In Swindon, there have been 2,567 staff flu vaccinations since 1 September, which means approximately 53 per cent of frontline workers at the Great Western Hospital have been protected against the virus.

While at Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust, 1,928 flu vaccines have been given, which puts the hospital's current performance at 54 per cent.

Staff at all three acute trusts are continually encouraged to come forward for their vaccine, with regular clinics being held both on-site and in locations across the community.

Patients and public reminded to only order what they need

In the run-up to Christmas, the ICB is raising awareness of medicine wastage and encouraging people to only order what they need.

The NHS spends an estimated £300 million on unused medicines each year, with wastage happening when too much medication is ordered that isn't needed, items are stockpiled at home or prescriptions aren't checked before leaving the pharmacy.

People are now being reminded of how important it is to check what medicines they have at home before placing their repeat prescription order.

With the support of local communities, the NHS can reduce its medicine waste, prevent supply pressures, and ensure the right medication is available for those who need it most.

In addition to this, people are also being reminded that all community pharmacies in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire have signed up to the Pharmacy First initiative, which enables trained pharmacists to prescribe treatment, including antibiotics, where appropriate, for seven common conditions.

These conditions are:

- Impetigo (aged one year and over)
- Infected insect bites (aged one year and over)
- Earache (aged one to 17 years)
- Sore throat (aged five years and over)
- Sinusitis (aged 12 years and over)
- Urinary tract infections (women aged 16 to 64 years)

- Shingles (aged 18 years and over)

Any medicine supplied through Pharmacy First, or via the pharmacy contraception service, are documented on the patient's GP record.

In response to an earlier request from the panel, the ICB does not have access to sales records relating to non-prescribed, over-the-counter items, such as paracetamol.

[Acute hospital league tables \(content provided by Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust\)](#)

Background

In November 2024, the Secretary of State announced that NHS England would assess NHS trusts against a range of performance criteria and publish the results.

This assessment allows NHS England to determine the support individual NHS trusts need to improve.

Those in the middle of the pack will be supported to improve, and those demonstrating persistently low performance will receive prompt intervention, while those performing at the top may be rewarded with additional freedoms.

In September 2025, the RUH was escalated to tier one by NHS England across all four performance domains, which are:

- Urgent and emergency care
- Elective recovery
- Cancer (62 day wait for treatment)
- Diagnostics

The trust was also projecting a financial deficit for end-of-year.

As a result of the combined operational and financial challenges, this placed the RUH in Segment 4 under the NHS Oversight Framework (NOF), quarter one of 2025/26. In the new acute trust league table published on 9 September 2025, the RUH was ranked 112th out of 134 acute providers.

Key drivers for position

The RUH is under significant financial and operational pressure and has seen a significant increase in terms of ambulance demand and emergency department attendances during the course of the year and exponentially since September, when wait-45 was introduced, whereby ambulance crews have a 45-minute time limit to hand over patients at an emergency department before leaving to respond to other calls.

These changes are significantly outside all planned assumptions and expectations in the order of 25 per cent for ambulance conveyances and 12 per cent for attendances.

There has also been a deteriorating position for referral-to-treatment waiting times, whereby there is a mismatch in the capacity required to meet the demand from increased referrals and a need to reduce the backlog of people waiting for elective care.

RUH response

The RUH has responded by strengthening its leadership team, implementing enhanced financial controls, launching an executive-led call-to-action, and appointing a turnaround team to focus specifically on financial recovery.

Collaborative work with the integrated care board to secure funding and accelerate improvements, principally for urgent and emergency care pathways and bed capacity is also happening.

This is particularly important as the RUH prepares its winter response to increased pressures during quarter four.

Performance recovery plans have been implemented across all four performance areas, with positive trajectories in reducing long waits for elective care and diagnostics, and an extraordinary improvement in ambulance handover.

Performance reported in October 2025 showed the following improvements;

- Average ambulance handover time decreased from 89 to 39 minutes.
- RUH ranking on four-hour standard has improved from 123rd to 103rd of 124.
- The number of patients waiting more than 65 weeks for elective care has reduced from 2,170 in August to 66 (as of 4 December).
- The number of patients waiting more than 40 weeks for their first outpatient appointment has reduced from 1,611 in August to 504.
- Cancer 28-day performance improved significantly to 64.6 per cent in October, from 53.5 per cent in the previous month, with further improvement expected in November.

Next steps

The next acute trust league table is due to be published shortly, and the RUH is expecting to see an improvement in its ranked position.

Strong progress continues to be made against the RUH's call-to-action recovery plan, and the trust expects to make ongoing improvements against its performance metrics and financial recovery for the remainder of the financial year.