



# Western Health and Social Care Trust

**Press Release**  
**10 December 2007**

## **Western Trust Launches New Rapid Response Nursing Team**

A new Rapid Response Nursing Team (RRNT) has been set up recently in the Omagh and Fermanagh areas (southern sector) by the Western Health and Social Care Trust. The Team has been running since September 2007 and feedback to date from service users has been extremely positive.

The team has been set up to facilitate the early discharge of patients back into the community where they can receive treatment in the comfort of their own homes.

Alan Corry-Finn, Director of Nursing with the Western Trust, speaking about the new service development, said: "The Western Trust is delighted to be able to extend this vital service into the southern sector of the Trust's area. Our Northern Team has now been operating for two years and it has had a tremendous impact on integrating hospital and community care and in improving the overall quality of healthcare received by patients and clients. "

The Western Trust's RRNT in the southern sector will be delivered by eight highly qualified nurses. It will operate under the guidelines and protocols that are currently being used by the team in the northern sector.

Rapid Response Nursing Team Leader with the Western Trust, Eileen Taylor, commented: "To date we have supported 55 patients who have been referred from both the Erne and Tyrone County Hospitals. The Team has saved a total of 261 bed days for patients who have been discharged and 9 hospital admissions have been avoided as a result of the service being available. This is great news for the service users and providers."

She continued: “The RRNT in the southern sector has managed a range of conditions including a patient with pseudomonas in their urine requiring Intravenous antibiotics, a patient with osteomyelitis requiring Intravenous vancomycin, several patients with cellulitis and two patients with acute exacerbation of COPD. The Service has also been able to facilitate palliative care patients requiring subcutaneous fluids.”

The RRNT will be able to deliver on a wider range of interventions as the service continues to expand. The team very much welcomes the support it has received from consultants, doctors, pharmacists and nursing staff from across both sites and is keen to build on the promising start reported.

A patient using the service said: “It was great to receive such a valuable service in the comfort of your home especially when you live in a rural area. The level of nursing was fantastic and it’s great to avoid going into the hospital.”

Ends...

**For further information contact:  
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**Notes to the editor:**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Fermanagh</b>	<b>Omagh</b>	<b>Overall</b>
Referrals	31	24	55
Bed Days Avoided	155	106	261
Admissions prevented	5	4	9