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Herefordshire stroke patients to take part in pioneering stem cell trial

Herefordshire patients are being invited to take part in a pioneering stem cell trial to help aid recovery following a stroke.

The research, known as PISCES trial 2, is the second phase of the world's first clinical trial on the use of brain stem cells to treat patients with limited movement of an arm following a stroke.

Hereford County Hospital's stroke team has been granted permission to participate in the trial and they will invite patients who meet the criteria to take part.

Reports on the first trial carried out in 2013 'show promise' and now the second phase of the trial involves a wider group of patients, with the aim of providing a better picture about whether brain stem cell therapy is effective in the treatment of stroke.

The therapy is made up of 20 million stem cells that are injected into the area of the brain affected by the stroke.

Fiona Price, research nurse at Wye Valley NHS Trust, said: "We are delighted to be part of phase two of the PISCES trial and we are working closely with the research team at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, where our patients who wish to take part in the trial will attend for treatment to be carried out".

Emma Rowan, research and development manager at Wye Valley NHS Trust, added: "This study has the potential to change the way we think about stroke treatment options, and is an excellent example of how research can bring pioneering treatments to our patients earlier than available commercially.

"Our stroke service is an exemplar demonstration of how a comparatively small district hospital can attract leading-edge research to benefit patients, staff and the Trust."

Wye Valley NHS Trust is celebrating International Clinical Trials Day today, Wednesday May 20, at Hereford County Hospital in Spires Restaurant. To find out more about clinical trials at the Trust please come along to the stand between 10am and 2pm.

Photograph

Left to right: Emma Rowan, research and development manager, and Fiona Price, research nurse.



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Notes to Editors WVT:

- Wye Valley NHS Trust is the provider health services across Herefordshire and beyond. The Trust exists to improve the wellbeing, independence and health of the people we serve. We are the leading provider of health care in Herefordshire.
- By working closely with our partners, we can make good our promise to deliver a quality of care we would want for ourselves, our families and our friends.
- With an estimated annual turnover of around £160 million, we employ around 2,700 plus staff. We aim to build new relationships between our staff, patients, service users and their carers with the wider community. For further information please contact:

For further information please contact:

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