



How your support is making an impact for local cancer patients



**cheltenham
and gloucester
hospitals charity**

at the heart of our community

Focus, our Fund for Oncology Centre Users and Supporters, is part of Cheltenham and Gloucester Hospitals Charity. Registered charity no. 1051606





GFRS Against Cancer Bed Push makes an impact

New equipment to help diagnose the increasing number of local people who have symptoms of prostate cancer or other urological cancers has been funded by Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service's incredible 160km Bed Push Challenge.

The Bed Push covered every fire station in Gloucestershire in 5 days to raise over £22,000, with further support from Cheltenham Lions and other local groups.

The equipment includes new blood pressure machines and examination couches which will help our Urology team to see local people with symptoms of cancer at the earliest possible stage.

“These pages show just some of the projects made possible thanks to supporters of Focus. We are extremely grateful for every gift received; whether you choose to make a donation, raise money on Justgiving with a sponsored challenge, support as an organisation or help to raise awareness, I would like to say a big ‘thank you’ on behalf of the Oncology Team for your support.”

Dr Nick Reed,
Consultant Oncologist and Chair of Focus

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Focus Support Team

Our Focus Team are funded by donations and, along with a team of committed volunteers, they play a vital role giving support to cancer patients.

The team are there for our patients at every step; from a diagnosis of cancer to advice during and beyond their treatment. The support team also offer complimentary therapies from massage to reflexology.

Recently, we have been able to expand the number of therapies available to patients with the addition of a Focus funded massage chair.

The chair is portable and can be used anywhere in the Oncology Centre and wards. Patients can now benefit from back, neck and shoulder massages to help relieve muscular aches and pains leaving them refreshed and relaxed.



Further Rise and Recline Chemotherapy Chairs

Thanks to support received for our ongoing appeal for specialist rise and recline chemotherapy chairs, 15 chairs have now been funded.

The chairs make a huge difference to patients who are receiving chemotherapy treatment for long periods; a time when the additional comfort and security offered by the chairs makes a real impact.



New technology offers enhanced skin cancer treatment

We have been able to purchase new technology for the treatment of skin cancers, thanks to the generosity of a supporter who chose to remember Focus in their will.

The new machine can be used instead of surgery for treating lesions on or just beneath the surface of the skin, producing an excellent cosmetic result for our patients and enabling our surgical teams to use their skills for more complex cases.



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Sky Ceilings now installed in all Radiotherapy Rooms

Thanks to our supporters we now have Sky Ceilings in place in each of our radiotherapy treatment rooms, which is transforming the experience for local cancer patients.

We have also raised funding to install them in other areas of the Oncology Centre, helping to create a calm and soothing environment for our patients.

“ Many patients feel anxious about their treatment and the Linac machines can seem intimidating at first.

The Sky Ceilings have made the world of difference. One patient had kept their eyes shut during each treatment session until we installed the ceiling, they then felt comfortable to open them. **”**

Ali Williams, Focus Cancer Support Centre Manager

Research project shines a light on cancer

Our Biophotonics Research Team have demonstrated that it is possible to tell the difference between healthy and cancerous tissue by measuring the light emitted when a low power laser is shone upon the tissue.

The research team are now beginning a Focus-funded study which will develop the diagnostic technique and has the potential to diagnose people with thyroid cancer, who are often aged in their 30's or 40's.

With early detection a key factor in the successful treatment of cancer, this technique could have huge advantages over traditional methods. With the potential to provide an instant diagnosis, it could prevent time delays and potentially eliminate the need for diagnostic surgery, meaning a far less invasive approach.

Dr Alex Dudgeon, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow is leading the research study



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Our research team bring innovative new treatment methods to Gloucestershire



Focus research role brings innovation to local area

Donations to Focus have enabled us to fund our first Focus Research Radiographer, enabling patients to benefit from emerging radiotherapy techniques and expanding our capacity to offer new trials to local people fighting cancer.

New research can provide innovative ways of offering treatment to patients, for example local Breast Cancer patients are benefitting from an improved radiotherapy technique called 'Heart Spare'.

Patients learn a controlled breathing technique which enables our team to move the radiotherapy beam away from the heart; reducing the potential long term side effects of treatment.

Your donation

I'd like to support
Focus with a donation of:

£

Please donate online or make cheques payable to 'Focus' and post this form to: **Cheltenham and Gloucester Hospitals Charity, Cheltenham General Hospital, Cheltenham, GL53 7AN**

Title:

Forename:

Surname:

Address:

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Telephone:

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By providing us with your email address you can help us to cut costs

Gift aid

Make your gift grow by at least 25% at no extra cost to you

giftaid it Yes ☐ Date: DD / MM / YYYY

I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I might make in the future or have made in the past four years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and /or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Thank you for your support

We will acknowledge your gift and update you on the impact it has made but will not continue to contact you unless you ask us to. If you would prefer not to receive acknowledgment of your gift please tick here ☐

Keeping in touch with Focus

You are a very important part of our work to create the best possible experience for local cancer patients, which is why we would like you to opt in so we can let you know about the impact which Focus is making and our fundraising for local cancer care.

If you are happy for us to keep in touch, please let us know how you would like to be contacted:

Post ☐ Email ☐ Phone ☐

You can change your choices at any time. We will never share your details with another organisation.

Registered charity no. 1051606

Together, we
can make a
difference.

Please support
local cancer care
today.

Focus is the charitable fund for the Gloucestershire Oncology Centre, raising funds which directly provide extra care, specialist equipment and new research over and above the NHS.

Donations, sponsorship and gifts in wills make a direct impact on our work, and we are grateful for every gift received.

If you would like to find out more about Focus, please contact

0300 422 3231 or
ghn-tr.fundraising@nhs.net

Find us Online

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 /CGHospCharity #FocusOnCancer

www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk/charity

