

## New cancer centre 'is extremely good news for patients'



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A NEW cancer care centre was today being opened in Nottingham.

The Park Cancer Centre has been built in the grounds of the BMI Park Hospital, in Burntstump Country Park.



Opening: The radiotherapy and chemotherapy team at Park Cancer Centre. In the foreground are, from left, consultant oncologist Dr Santhanam Sundar, BMI Park Hospital's clinical services manager Liz Oke, hospital director Ken Hay, The Park Cancer Centre manager Susie McAllister, and Sheila Hendy, head of governance and operations with Cancer Partners UK.

Patients will get advanced radiotherapy and chemotherapy under one roof, with fewer side effects than more conventional treatments

It is being opened after a deal between the private hospital and Cancer Partners UK, a company set up to build such centres across the UK

Liz Oke, the hospital's clinical services director, said: "Since we first began cancer treatment 20 years ago, the hospital's cancer care provision has evolved with the development of new drugs and modern techniques.

"We are able to treat the vast majority of our chemotherapy patients during day care appointments so that they can maintain as normal a life as possible.

"More patients will now be able to access this dedicated care in a modern, spacious environment, as well as have access to latest generation radiotherapy treatments."

Cancer Partners UK provides advanced forms of radiotherapy in the UK.

It specialises in treatments such as IMRT (intensity modulated radiotherapy) and daily IGRT (image guided radiotherapy). These have been shown to treat cancer tumours with greater accuracy and fewer side effects than conventional radiotherapy.

Susie McAllister has been appointed lead radiographer and manager at the new centre.

She said: "Cancer Partners UK is the only independent organisation to routinely provide daily image guided radiotherapy treatments outside of London, and we're delighted to be opening our fifth centre in Nottingham.

"It's great to be working with Park Hospital and our partnership means patients now have improved access to different types of cancer treatment under one roof, which will result in a smoother and less stressful treatment journey for them."

Dr Santhanam Sundar, consultant oncologist for Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs the QMC and City Hospital, is one of a number of consultants who will see private patients at the new centre. He said: "This is a fantastic new high-tech facility which will further develop the cancer services in the area.

"The advanced IMRT and daily IGRT provides the most targeted external beam radiation available.

"Having this and the delivery of chemotherapy all on one site is extremely good news for patients.

"I'm looking forward to working with the staff, who are very experienced and have a good understanding of the needs of their patients."