

## Charity-funded technology is improving patient care at Royal Stoke & County hospitals



Nadine Opiniano, Matron for Older Adults at UHNM said: "RITA is of great benefit to patients with acute delirium, confusion and dementia who could become distressed with unfamiliar hospital surroundings. It has shown to be effective in calming down the more anxious or agitated patients".

Staff working at University Hospitals of North Midlands (UHNM) are now able to better interact with elderly patients thanks to a new digital bedside therapy system that has been introduced to wards at the Royal Stoke University and County hospitals, generously funded by the UHNM Charity.

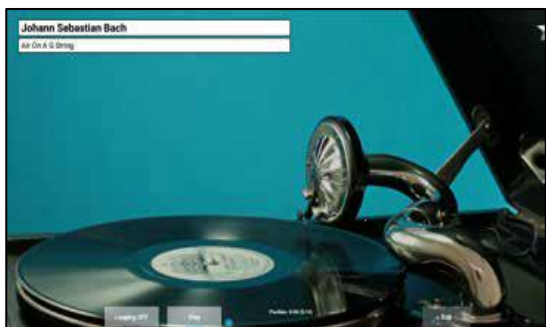
RITA (Reminiscence Interactive Therapy Activities) is an interactive touch-screen system which allows patients to enjoy specifically designed reminiscence content, watch films, play games, listen to music, and view messages from loved ones as part of their hospital recovery.

The system has been rolled out on elderly care wards at both UHNM hospitals, thanks to funding from UHNM Charity and its supporters.



**Richard McCloud, Dementia Liaison Team member and patient Neil Huband with the RITA system**  
(Image: UHNM)

"The easy-to-use touch screens allow dementia patients to enjoy relaxing music, watch archived BBC news footage, view old photographs and listen to historical speeches, which evokes memories and is a great conversation starter".



*Some feedback from staff:*

*"We absolutely love RITA on our ward. We have affectionately nicknamed it Mummy RITA and baby RITA.*

*We have managed to engage patients with it so much so that we engaged a bay of observed*

*patients into a film afternoon which was enjoyed, and they responded so well to that experience!"*

*Ward Manager - Ward 7 County Hospital, Stafford*



*"The RITA device has been used many times, not only to settle patients with cognitive impairment such as dementia, but those in need of distraction. We have mainly used the films and music from certain decades but have also made use of the relaxation music especially later on in the day; the puzzles and games have been used too. All In all, it has been a great success."* WARD FEAU

*The night staff said it was a godsend. The gentleman who we used it with yesterday slept really well last night compared to the night before"*

*"We are just using RITA now for a gentleman who has to have care on a 1-1 basis. So far, he has watched films, old shows, and an old series all of which has kept him calm and engaged, enabling his healthcare, so a success with this patient".*

*"We have used Rita on numerous occasions in our observation bay, it has helped to calm the patients, we have had the music on, staff and patients have danced a little, we have reminisced at old films, tv shows and pictures, the patients really enjoy it, it is very beneficial to all the patients and staff".* Ward 79 Royal Stoke



**"RITA is of great benefit to patients with delirium, confusion and dementia"**

**Nadine Opiniano  
Matron of Older Adults**