

PHOTO/VIDEO OPPORTUNITY

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**RUNNYMEDE HEALTHCARE CENTRE PARTICIPATES IN INNOVATIVE
VIRTUAL REALITY STUDY**

TORONTO – Patients at Runnymede Healthcare Centre are finding themselves thousands of kilometers away from the hospital in the blink of an eye thanks to a virtual reality (VR) experience. Runnymede has partnered with OpenLab, a design and innovation centre at the University Health Network to embark on its first-ever research project, using immersive VR.

OpenLab's pilot project, VRx, explores and evaluates the potential benefits of using VR with various patient populations. The VRx prototype is a series of short, immersive 360 degree films designed to provide a calming experience for participating patients. Exposing patients to VR could elicit buried memories that have been previously forgotten, and may also offer a virtual vehicle that can move patients beyond the walls of the hospital or confines of a bed.

Runnymede is collaborating with OpenLab to use the immersive VR technology with patients at the hospital and then evaluate any benefits that are observed. So far, patients who have participated in the study have been awed by the experience.

About Runnymede Healthcare Centre

At Runnymede Healthcare Centre, we have a single, clear purpose: improve the quality of life of every patient, every day. Runnymede Healthcare Centre is an innovative 206-bed rehabilitation hospital with a proven track record of success in providing the highest level of patient-centred care to those whose treatment needs cannot be met at home or in an acute care facility. Our interprofessional team works together to provide the outstanding care that makes it possible for patients to regain mobility and independence to return home to the community, if possible. Since 1945, Runnymede has worked as an important piece of the healthcare system, providing our patients with the right care in the right place at the right time. To learn more, please visit: www.runnymedehc.ca.

For further information or to see a demonstration please contact:

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