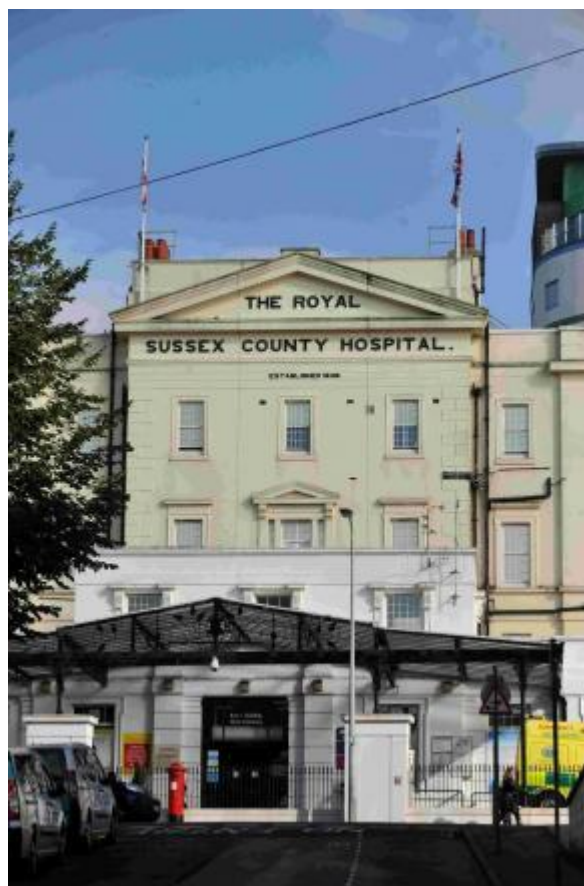


BRIGHTON'S hospital is facing prosecution for failing to protect patients from a deadly bug.

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Rachel Millard, Reporter

BRIGHTON'S hospital is facing prosecution for failing to protect patients from a deadly bug. The trust that runs the Royal Sussex County Hospital is accused of failing to ensure its patients and visitors were protected from the risk of legionella bacteria - which causes legionnaires' disease.

The charge against Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust follows the case of cancer patient Joan Rayment, 78, who caught the waterborne bug at the Royal Sussex County Hospital before she died in November 2011.



The Health and Safety Executive is prosecuting the trust under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

It faces one count of failing to ensure that "patients and visitors to the hospital, including Mrs Joan Rayment, were not thereby exposed to risks to their health and safety, namely the risks of injury or death should they become infected by legionella bacteria from the various water systems at that hospital".

A representative for the trust appeared at Redhill Magistrates' Court on January 20 and the case has now been sent to crown court. A spokesman for the trust said it was unable to comment ahead of crown court proceedings.

*Comment from Simon French
Leading UK Legionella Consultant*

All Hospitals are likely to have Legionella in there water systems. It's their control measures that are questionable.