

Patient Safety



Sussex Community
NHS Foundation Trust

March 2022

Welcome to the Patient Safety Newsletter...

This month's shout out goes to Katherine Armour (Clinical Lead Physiotherapist—ICU Therapy Central) who has developed a leaflet for patients explaining what they should expect from therapy during their admission to an ICU and the aim of rehabilitation on the unit. The leaflet includes advice on the frequency of therapy sessions, on having their own clothes and shoes, getting up and getting dressed, that all staff on the unit are involved in rehabilitation, doing exercises and for joining in with tasks including washing and dressing. The leaflet is not yet finalised, but once it is the aim is to have it on all ICUs to be given to patients and their relatives on arrival to the unit. This is a great leaflet for patients to help manage expectations and hopefully improve patient and relative experience on the ICUs!

Best Wishes,

Debbie, Charlotte and Hannah

Falls alarms

It has been identified that in many of the inpatient falls on ICUs across the trust the patient was on a falls alarm at the time of the fall. In some incidents the patient has un-clipped the falls alarm and got up on their own without using their call bell. In others the falls alarm itself has not prevented the fall because of the delay in the alarm being set off and staff not being able to get to the patient before they had fallen.

This high-lights concerns around the effectiveness of falls alarms. They are ineffective at preventing falls, they can cause distress for both patients and staff, and they can be unreliable and break. Therefore, the use of falls alarms is currently being reviewed by the Trust Wide Falls lead and Patient Safety Team along with some of the ICUs.

Food fortification

Ensuring a good level of nutrition is crucial, particularly for rehabilitation, healing and preventing further complications such as pressure ulcers and falls. If a patient has a reduced oral intake, then it is necessary to encourage higher energy menu choices, snacks and milky drinks if they are an inpatient and discuss food fortification if they live in the community. Fortified milky drinks such as Complan and Meritene are recommended for both groups. These steps increase calories, proteins, vitamins and minerals. Visit the Nutrition and hydration pulse page [here](#) for more details.



Patient Safety News Flash!

The Patient Safety Team are leading a project aimed to improve the monitoring of patients nutrition and hydration. The project aims to develop better tools to monitor food and fluid intake by encouraging accurate recording and identifying when interventions or escalation is required to prevent malnutrition and/or dehydration. The team want to hear from staff across the trust who are interested in getting involved with this project, so please do get in touch if you have any thoughts or ideas that you would like to share, and use our team inbox: sc-tr.patientsafetyteam@nhs.net

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Falls in toilets and bathrooms

Recent incidents demonstrate an increase in inpatient falls happening within toilet and bathroom areas, or around toileting. This has been picked up from incidents, investigations and table top meetings.

We are therefore asking you whether you have noted this theme?



Have you reviewed the toilets and bathrooms on your ward and thought about lights, layout and the equipment used?

Have you considered alternative equipment such as red raised toilet seats to increase visibility for patients?

Taking confusion into account

Recent incident investigations have identified that new or changing confusion has not been taken into account when completing NEWS2.

If a patient develops any new confusion, or their current confusion worsens this needs to be added into the NEWS2 assessment under D—Consciousness. This automatically adds 3 points to the patient's NEWS2 score and ensures that this new confusion is escalated and assessed by a member of the medical team.

The importance of End of Life Care—by Britney Pup Princess

Sadly, our 16-year-old team mate Oscar, went over the rainbow bridge on 13th January. Oscar had a funny turn, our human took him in her arms and soothed him but he stopped being. I was confused and upset as I didn't know about this dying thing. My human said it was a blessing because Oscar died peacefully at home with his family and without pain or fear. He hated vets!

My human said most humans want to die in peace and comfort, at home, with their families around them and that it is you wonderful humans who support them to do this! She told me about ReSPECT document and the new End-of-Life Care Strategy, and how there is a new End of Life Care Plan that is used to ensure and record great treatment and management at End of Life. There really is some fantastic work being done to support humans to die at home with comfort and dignity at SCFT!

To be honest, Oscar wasn't much fun. He wouldn't play chase, he grumbled at me when I wanted him to play and he never EVER shared his treats! Still, my human loved him very much and I must admit, I really miss him. Here he is when he last enjoyed a trip to the poppy fields... I was so grateful that my human was here when Oscar died... Thank you for the great work you do for EOLC for human patients and their families, it really is so important to get this right.



For further information on all things Patient Safety please visit our team page on [The Pulse](#), or follow us on twitter at @scft_quality