

# Patient Safety



Sussex Community  
NHS Foundation Trust

April 2022

## Welcome to the Patient Safety Newsletter...

This month's shout out goes to Arundel, Crowborough and Horizon ICU who have all been doing some fantastic work around falls prevention. These ICUs have all engaged in recent table tops to discuss the falls prevention on the ward, what is going well, what is not going as well and for what could be put in place to further improve the falls prevention. Staff have engaged brilliantly and come up with lots of great suggestions and ideas for improvement, including a trial on not using falls alarms and increasing the comfort rounding in Crowborough, a health and safety walk around to review the layout and environment of the bathrooms and exercise packs for patients at Horizon Unit, and a more detailed and thorough post falls review at Arundel. These great ideas are being collated by the Patient Safety Team and Trust Wide Falls Lead with the aim to share it across the trust! Thank-you to all staff involved with this, your support and involvement with it is fantastic! Keep up the great work!

Best Wishes,

Debbie, Charlotte, Hannah and Mary Jo

### Paraffin Fire Risk leaflet and information

"Skin products containing paraffin based products, for example White Soft Paraffin, White Soft Paraffin plus 50% Liquid Paraffin or Emulsifying ointment, in contact with dressings and clothing are easily ignited with a naked flame or a cigarette.

Warnings about the risk of severe and fatal burns are being extended to all paraffin-based emollients regardless of paraffin concentration. Data suggest there is also a risk for paraffin-free emollients. Advise patients who use these products not to smoke or go near naked flames, and warn about the easy ignition of clothing, bedding, dressings, and other fabric that have dried residue of an emollient product on them."

There are 2 products on formulary that are paraffin free which teams can liaise with TVN about. It is worth noting that even products without paraffin, such as Aproderm Oat, will have a fire warning on them as this is an MHRA requirement. For further information please do contact the TVN team or visit the Pulse Page [here](#). Staff can also seek advice from their local fire service on fire blankets and fire risk assessments.

Medicines & Healthcare products  
Regulatory Agency

NFCC  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council



### SKIN CREAMS: ALERT



**Clothing, bedding, dressings and bandages with skin cream dried on them can catch fire easily causing severe and fatal burns**

### Patient Safety News Flash!

The Patient Safety Team has a new Patient Safety Lead joining us at the start of this month! We are welcoming the lovely Mary Jo Patterson into the team. This is very exciting for the Patient Safety Team as Mary Jo joins us with fantastic experience and we really look forward to working with her!

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## Improving the environment for patients with dementia

People living with dementia can experience many issues which may impact their day to day lives. Memory, concentration, perception and mobility may all be affected. Simple changes can make our inpatient and outpatient spaces more accessible for people living with dementia. These changes will also enhance the experience of everyone using our services. Not being able to find the toilet provokes anxiety. Signs to the toilets should be able to be seen from all patient areas, and should have the word and a picture denoting the toilet. Contrasting toilet seats and rails will support people with visual perceptual changes, or low vision to find and use the toilet more easily. In last month's Patient Safety News red toilet seats were mentioned, however at SCFT we use dark blue toilet seats and rails to offer this contrast.

## Oreo's Opinions

Good Moo lovely humans! I was recently introduced to the Patient Safety Team by my human who works in Children's Services at Chailey. I was shocked to find out that your human young don't get up and walk independently as fast as ours do! I mean, months to be moving and then a crawl apparently! REALLY! Our beautiful calves are up on their legs and feeding nicely within 2 hours, although they may have a few wobbles or falls getting their balance. I heard that your babies are entirely dependent on their adult humans to ensure they are fed, watered and cared for with some teeny tiny babies being fed through a tube when they leave hospital. Your fantastic health professionals ensure this is done safely and the special tube is sitting in their stomachs.

Because your babies can't fall over or bump themselves, they shouldn't bruise or suffer injuries. You have amazing health professionals supporting human parents to care for their babies and keep them safe. Our professionals know that if a baby who is not mobile, presents with a bruise or injury, there is a bruise protocol to follow [here](#). It must be hard to think that a baby could be harmed by an adult but when it does happen, it is good to know that there is this guidance to follow to safeguard the little ones.



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