

Patient Safety



Sussex Community
NHS Foundation Trust

June 2022

Welcome to the Patient Safety Newsletter...

This month's shout out goes to Lisa Holford, and the inpatient teams across the High Weald, Lewes and Havens, who have come up with a new visual fluid chart tool for patients to use and are trialing it across Uckfield, Lewes and Crowborough ICUs. The tool is a visual aid to go alongside the current fluid chart and enables patients to keep track of the amount of fluids they are drinking throughout the day. The chart has already received some great feedback from patients—what a fantastic idea and project!

Best Wishes,

Debbie, Charlotte, Hannah and Mary Jo

Bruising in Children who are Not Independently Mobile

Bruising is the commonest presenting feature of physical abuse in children. Bruising in Infants and children who are not independently mobile (those not crawling, cruising or walking independently) should always raise alert to possible physical harm and the Bruising in Children who are Not independently mobile Guidance (Updated April 2021) must be followed; this guidance is available on the safeguarding children pages on the Pulse and Pan Sussex Safeguarding Procedures [here](#). The decision to refer to Children's Social Care should be explained to parents or carers clearly and honestly, a leaflet has been developed to support this discussion and available on the Pulse 'bruising leaflet'. The safeguarding children advice line is available Monday to Friday 9am until 4.30pm 01273 696011 ex 6115.

End PJ paralysis

We all know moving is good for you – yet everyday people lie in hospital beds deconditioning. The end PJ paralysis campaign is aimed at all health care professionals, with the aim to improve our patients lives through reducing immobility, deconditioning and dependency. An audit across all the ICU's in SCFT found 84% of patients are in their chair for lunch and 55% of are in day clothes by 12pm. These results show that we have an opportunity to do even better for our patients, and so at SCFT we will be launching our own #EndPJParalysis Campaign the week of the 20th June. During this week the message is simple – prevent deconditioning in our ICU's by encouraging patients to maintain some normality whilst in hospital and to get up, get dressed and be active. The new resources will be shared with all staff across our the ICUs in early June in preparation for launch week!



Patient Safety News Flash!

The Patient Safety Team are working on putting together investigation training for staff which will aim to provide teaching and support for the completion of both incident investigations (patient safety and other incidents) and the completion of complaint investigations. If staff are interested in attending this training please do contact Debbie Johnson: deborah.johnson16@nhs.net or the team inbox: sc-tr.patientsafetyteam@nhs.net

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Importance of personalised communication

We investigated concerns into the care of a lady with advanced dementia, who passed away on one of our wards. The patient's elderly husband was unable to visit so was phoning every day and was given short updates of his wife being stable and then deteriorating etc. This left the patient's husband feeling that his wife was not being cared for adequately – even though our findings were that his wife received great care.

Listening to this gentleman's worries highlighted how important it is to communicate using everyday language that will give a real 'picture' of what is happening. For instance, rather than saying – 'she is stable with no concerns' it is more meaningful to say 'your wife had a lovely wash this morning and is smiling with staff or 'unfortunately, your wife's condition is deteriorating but she is cosy in bed and not in any pain'. How we communicate and the language we use conveys compassionate care and an understanding of how difficult it is for elderly couples to be apart, particularly when they are unable to communicate for themselves and are nearing end of life.

Mascot of the month—Ted Talks

My name is Ted, I am two. I paused for thought the other day following a walk as to what my role is with my family pack and I think it's primarily providing unconditional love, loyalty, and companionship. Importantly I play a huge role in their health and wellbeing. Every day after their work I greet them with my own special hugs and kisses to show I have missed them and no matter what even if it's raining cats and dogs, they must take me and my older brother Bailey (A border collie- who's not in the photo... as it is all about me) out. Taking me and Bailey out allows us to burn off our unused energies and gives the rest of the pack an opportunity to reflect on their day. Giving them time for physical activity but most importantly time to separate work and home life. I listen to them babble on with fascination with their stories about life and talking through concerns and I can recognise they talk about anything in an honest and open way.

I am very clever in that I can sense when they are not feeling 100%, I instinctively know how best to support them with my doggy comfort, cuddles and playfulness. I give them a sense of purpose and a routine, I know they may not be enthusiastic when taking me out some days because they are tired, but I also see they feel so much better after some fresh air, conversation and thinking time. Our pack would not be complete without each other and how we look after each other's health and wellbeing is so important.



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