

# Patient Safety



Sussex Community  
NHS Foundation Trust

September 2022

## Welcome to the Patient Safety Newsletter...

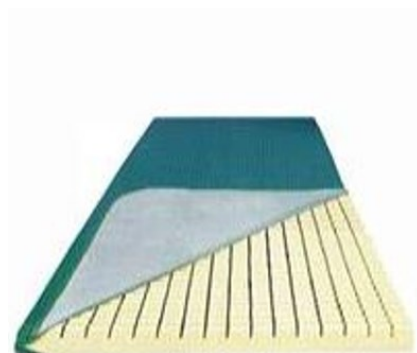
This month hosts the [World Health Organisation Patient Safety Day](#) on 17th September 2022! The Patient Safety Team want to shout out to all staff across SCFT who on a daily basis provide safe care to our patients in such a range of different services, despite the many daily challenges to achieving this! We wanted to say thank-you for all staff who identify safety issues and incidents and submit Datix reports to support the continuous learning from these AND the good practice around managing deteriorating patients, with a Great-ix! Reporting provides great data to help us to monitor trends and themes, and in turn use this to work with staff across the trust to improve patient care. Thank-you to staff who have been involved in investigating patient safety incidents, including attending table tops and coming up with improvement ideas and plans. We really appreciate the work that you do in ensuring that Patient Safety is everyone's business.

Best Wishes,

Debbie, Charlotte, Hannah and Mary Jo

### Ordering and fitting mattress toppers

Recently there have been a few incidents where patients have slipped off the bed due to a propad overlay mattress. These are standard stock items readily prescribed by nurses, and some therapists, to reduce risk of pressure damage. It sits on top of the patient's existing conventional mattress, and once ordered, is provided and fitted by the equipment services. These incidents have triggered a discussion with NRS (B&H) who have advised that the mattress should be secured using a sheet (preferably fitted) that goes over both mattresses and is tucked under the bottom mattress, and that this is communicated by the prescriber of the item. West Sussex NRS also provide the same overlay propad mattress. An information leaflet is provided by NRS, however this does not include advice about securing the item. As a result a pop up box will be added to IRIS to prompt prescribers to have this conversation with patients/carers.



### Patient Safety News Flash!

The Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF) was released in August! This replaces the current Serious Incident Framework as part of the NHS Patient Safety Strategy. The framework sets out a new NHS approach to developing and maintaining effective systems and processes for responding to patient safety incidents for the purpose of learning and improving patient safety. It is available [here](#).) This means we will be changing how we approach investigating patient safety incidents at SCFT and the Patient Safety Team will ensure that staff are kept informed throughout our transition to the new framework. More information is available [here](#) and there is a short video for staff to watch. If you have any questions or concerns then do contact the Patient Safety Team.

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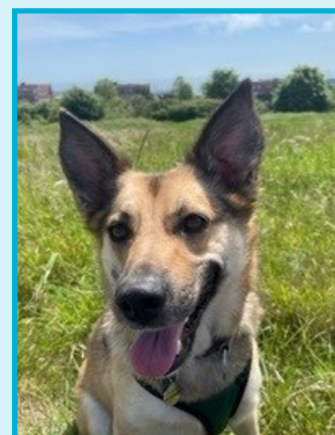
## Interpreting Services

A professional interpreter must always be used to communicate with patients who do not speak English to enable staff to provide the best care for patients and support their families. The use of a family member is not advised or best practice, except in emergency situations. Trust staff have access to three services, that maximises the chance of the best quality interpreting service to enable staff to provide the best care for patients and support their families. Language line provides both interpreting and translation services, and more information can be found [here](#). Sussex Interpreting Services provides face to face, telephone and video interpreting services across all SCFT sites and runs a 24/7/365 emergency interpreting service, and more information can be accessed [here](#). And Vandu also provides face to face and digital communications and translation services, and more information is available [here](#).



## Mascot of the month— Merry's Musings

Hi, I'm Merry and my human works in the tissue viability team. Yesterday, heard her talking about using risk assessments to help prevent vulnerable and frail humans from getting sores on their bodies when they are poorly or unable to move about as much as the rest of us! I didn't know what she meant by this, so my ears pricked up to learn more. I found out that the risk assessment—Purpose T— helps you to identify and work out what preventative measures you should swiftly put in place to prevent pressure ulcers. I learnt that this and other risk assessments must be completed within a timeframe and be reviewed regularly so you to have up to date information to guide you to make sure that the humans you look after always have the best prevention methods in place. This sounded brilliant! However, I then heard about safeguarding, I sniffed about and found out that when pressure ulcers occur, a Safeguarding enquiry is likely to happen and if the risk assessments, preventions and care plans are not in place then this is deemed as neglect and causing risk to patients! Gosh! This really showed me how important and useful Purpose T and other risk assessment tools are to help you to deliver the fantastic care you do for your fellow humans! My human's team help to train you how to use the tool too! I sat down for ages listening so was very pleased when my human took me for a walk, I really didn't like the sound of getting a sore from sitting down for too long!



For further information on all things Patient Safety please visit our team page on [The Pulse](#), or follow us on twitter at @scft\_quality. You can also the contact the team on: [sc-tr.patientsafetyteam@nhs.net](mailto:sc-tr.patientsafetyteam@nhs.net)