

Patient Safety



Sussex Community
NHS Foundation Trust

December 2022

Welcome to the Patient Safety Newsletter...

This month's shout out goes to Sophia Kanmi-Jones, a HCSW at Zachary Merton ICU, who came up with an idea to support staff to know which patients need encouragement to drink, and to encourage patients to drink. The idea includes both a visual bedside symbol/ sign on the whiteboard behind their beds so that all ward staff know that person is on a fluid chart and to aid chart completion in a timely manner. It also includes a tablemat (A4 sign) to support hydration on the wards and aims to prompt and encourage the patients who may need to be reminded to drink. Sophia has put forward this idea as part of the HCSW Innovation Idea project which is funded by NHSE, and NHSE has awarded £1000 to support the project! It has already been trialed on Zachary Merton with very positive feedback, and the plan is now to see if we can make this trust wide across all ICUs!

Absolutely brilliant work by Sophia, and all those who are supporting her! Well done!

Best Wishes,
Debbie, Charlotte, Hannah and Mary Jo

Deteriorating Patient Thematic review

Recently a thematic review was completed by the Patient Safety Team, which including reviewing some key deteriorating incidents, recent Serious Incidents, Datix data, the current practice in the ICUs, a task analysis of taking observations in an ICU and a NEWS2 audit across 9 of the ICUs.

The thematic review then analysed the above to identify key themes, of which the following 3 key themes were identified:

- 1) There is no standardised process across the trust for recording observations on the ICUs.
- 2) There can be errors in calculating NEWS2 scores in both the S1 and the paper chart.
- 3) Patients were not always escalated in-line with the NEWS2 bundle and escalation protocol.

The thematic review triggered a Trustwide action plan which included reviewing how staff recorded observations and how digital can help to support this and re-launch NEWS2 across the trust.

Observation chart for the National Early Warning Score (NEWS2)

NEWS key 0 1 2 3	FULL NAME	NHS NO:
DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF ADMISSION	
DATE TIME		DATE TIME

Patient Safety News Flash!

The Patient Safety Team have launched new investigation training which will aim to support staff with completing both patient safety incident and complaints investigation, and is designed to fit with the aims of the Patient Safety Strategy, Patient Safety Incident Response Standards and NHS Complaints Investigation Standards. The next cohort is in February 2023 and if you have any questions or are interested in the training please contact the Patient Safety Team: sc-tr.patientsafetyteam@nhs.net

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Checking for the right saline

A recent alert from another local organisation about saline for irrigation being used instead of saline for injection, has highlighted the importance of checking medications before administration. It was identified that the syringe driver boxes may have been stocked with the wrong saline, which may have led to the incident.

However it identified two key important points, firstly ensuring that a senior staff member reviews the medication to check for the correct medication and that it is in date, and secondly for all staff giving medication to check the right medication is then given to the patient.

Support from Professional Nurse Advocacy (PNA)

The PNA role is to support your wellbeing. We provide support regarding health and wellbeing, career development as well as Restorative Clinical Supervision (RCS). Our meetings give you opportunity to discuss any professional issues as well as personal issues. It is also opportunity for reflection to improve health and wellbeing and enable learning.

Within SCFT we have 40 PNAs who work in a variety of roles and have protected time to carry out their PNA role. PNAs can meet staff on an individual basis or as a group /team.

RCS contains elements of psychological support including listening, supporting and challenging to improve our capacity to cope, especially in managing difficult and stressful situations. It can provide time to reflect on physical, emotional mental health. Please email sc-tr.scft-pna-referrals@nhs.net to get in touch.

Mascot of the month - Smokey's Speech

Hello, my name is Smokey, and my human is the Trust's Medical Device Safety Lead! Which if you ask me a pretty key role, ensuring medical device safety across the Trust! She also work with another human (Quality and Safety Facilitator), who supports all the great work she does and together make a brilliant team.

But just the other day was back in from having a walk around the garden, I heard my human talking about the things that need to be done before a medical device can be safe for use! Now, I thought this sounded pretty interesting, and so my ears pricked up at this point and I wanted to hear more. She talked about ensuring that all devices had a service date, that they are cleaned properly, that staff are competent to use them and that they are always used with the with the correct disposables and have an expiry date. Following this is the completion of the red label must include the service name and location of service. What I heard was very insightful, and it showed what an incredible process this is to ensure the safety of medical devices! Now for another walk I think! Meow!



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