

# Patient Safety



Sussex Community  
NHS Foundation Trust

September 2023

## Welcome to the Patient Safety Newsletter...

World Patient Safety Day 2023 is in September, and this year's theme is "Engaging patients for patient safety". Involving patients, families and carers in learning responses to incidents is key to us understanding and improving all the factors that impact on safety.

We have recruited 4 wonderful Patient Safety Partners. We are very excited about this development in the team. Hence this month's shout out is to Moira, Sarah, Martin and Gill who will help to ensure that the voice of the patient is very much heard in patient safety in SCFT! Thank-you to the 4 of them for bringing their multiple skills and experience to our team, the department and the Trust!

You can meet our Patient Safety Partners at our SCFT Patient Safety Day on 12th September at the Arundel Suite, or over TEAMS on 15th September. More details below.

Best wishes

Debbie, Charlotte, Hannah and Mary Jo



### External training sessions for staff

St Wilfrid's Hospice provide external training which SCFT staff are able to attend. These sessions include:

- Management of Syringe drivers
- Hydration
- Understanding frailty

Links to the training are provided [here](#).

### Improving patient safety culture – a practical guide

Having a positive safety culture is so important, and it is something the SCFT Patient Safety Team really promote. NHS England has written a new practical guide on improving patient safety culture which has just been published and is available [here](#).

Please can you ensure that this link is shared with all your teams and staff?

### Patient Safety News Flash!

On Tuesday 12th September SCFT are holding a Patient Safety Day in the Arundel Suite, BGH, to showcase achievements of staff and projects that have improved patient safety. Please do come and join us!

Throughout the week of 11th to 15th September there will also be online drop in sessions about the key elements of the Patient Safety Strategy and what the changes mean for SCFT and all the staff! These include:

- Learn from Patient Safety Events (LFPSE) and InPhase – What does this mean for you? 11/09/2023.
- Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF) – What this means for you? 13/09/2023.
- A discussion about the new investigation tools and supporting you to use them. 14/09/2023.
- Tea and Q&A with our new Patient Safety Partners – come along and meet them! 15/09/2023.

If you have any questions please do contact the Patient Safety Team on: [sc-tr.patientsafetyteam@nhs.net](mailto:sc-tr.patientsafetyteam@nhs.net).

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## Terminology hard to swallow?

**Is “pureed” the same as “liquidised”??? Is this drink the right thickness??? What’s a ‘soft’ diet???**

These were some of the questions frequently asked by people providing food/drinks for those with dysphagia (difficulty swallowing) before the International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative (IDDSI) was implemented in 2018. IDDSI is a global standard with terminology and definitions to describe the texture-modified foods and the thickened fluids sometimes used for individuals with dysphagia. IDDSI applies to all ages, in all care settings, and for all cultures.

The IDDSI framework consists of a continuum of 8 levels (0-7). Levels are identified by text labels, numbers, and colour codes to improve safety and identification. Each level has standardised descriptors and simple testing methods so that people can consistently produce the required thickness of drinks and/or texture of foods. Speech and language therapists, hospitals, care homes and pre-prepared meal delivery companies in the UK have been using IDDSI terminology since 2018. Since then, we have seen a reduction in confusion around food and drink textures, and staff have reported improved confidence in how to prepare meals to the right consistency. The new IDDSI Funnel is a quick and easy way to check the consistency of the drink you have prepared. We will be demonstrating the testing methods in our slot at the Patient Safety Day on September 12<sup>th</sup> so come along to find out more and maybe even get yourself a funnel!

For further information, please explore <https://iddsi.org/> or speak to your [speech and language therapists](#).

## Mascot of the month - Bailey's broadcast

Hello, my name is Bailey, and my human is the Area Head of Nursing and Governance - East. 6 months ago I was diagnosed with Cushing's Disease (where my body over produces certain hormones). As a result of this I have to take a medication called Vetroyl 30mg in the morning and 10 mg at night, which my lovely human helps me with. I know she has a clear process in place to make sure I get the right dose at the right time. However one evening I could sense she was in a hurry, and she accidentally gave me the 30mg tablet instead of the 10mg tablet. She quickly realised after checking the packet, and of course said she should have checked the packet first! There is a risk if I take too many tablets, but luckily I was fine after this error.

Afterwards I heard my human talking about the importance of checking medication before giving it, which I guess in her role and healthcare is very important! It's a simple check, but it can make a big difference to patients (and dogs!).

I am off to find my ball! Woof woof x



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 contact the team on: [sc-tr.patientsafetyteam@nhs.net](mailto:sc-tr.patientsafetyteam@nhs.net)