

Patient Safety



Sussex Community
NHS Foundation Trust

October 2023

Welcome to the Patient Safety Newsletter...

This month's shout out goes to everyone who was involved with and supported SCFT Patient Safety Day which took place on 12th September 2023 at Brighton General Hospital, to mark the WHO World Patient Safety Day 2023.

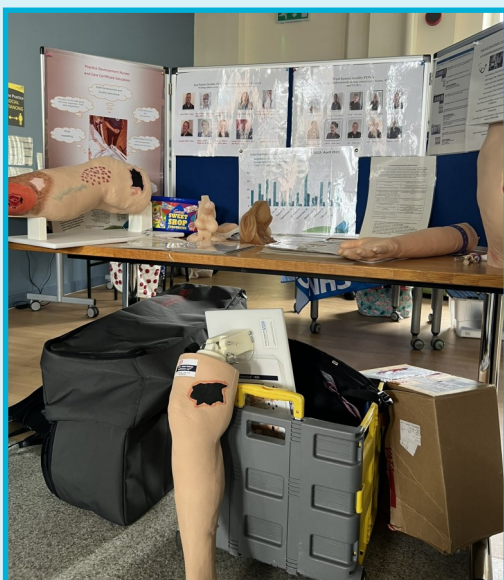
The day was filled with fantastic presentations and stands from staff and teams showcasing the wonderful work and improvement projects going on across the Trust and the benefits to our patients.

People involved included Tissue Viability Nurse Specialists, the Trust Wide Falls Lead, the Senior Clinical Pharmacist and Medication Safety Officer (MSO), Senior Pharmacy Technician, Speech and Language Therapists, MDT Consultants, a Clinical Service Manager & Patient Access Manager, the Clinical Transformation Lead, the Digital Clinical Safety Lead, East Intermediate Care Units (ICUs), the Deputy Dementia Lead, an Assistant Director of Nursing, Resuscitation trainer, the Practice Development Nurses, the Quality Improvement Team, an HCSW from Zachery Merton and the Professional Lead for Occupational Therapy (Adult Services). WOW!

A huge thank-you to all those who presented, hosted a stall and came along to the day, helping to make it a success! We learned so much too!

Best Wishes,

Debbie, Charlotte, Hannah and Mary Jo



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FTSU - Welcome to our October Footnote!

Speaking Up is about anything that gets in the way of YOU doing a good job. Last quarter (July to Sept), you raised concerns about:

- Inconsistent approaches to communication around changes to service delivery and staff development
- Relationship difficulties arising within teams or between individuals which were not addressed early enough.
- A perception that microaggressions experienced by team members are sometimes minimised to avoid challenging conversations.

What we did:

Raised Speak Up concerns with managers and senior leaders (with staff agreement), to identify opportunities for future early intervention and better communication, both for service changes and team relationships

Revisited the principles of Speak Up/Listen Up training which gives a blueprint for how to approach concerns, and did team presentations on Speaking Up

Reviewed Fair recruitment & training processes where applicable, to avoid discrimination.

Your Feedback:

... 'It was great that you had time to listen.

... 'Thank you, this sounds like a good resolution to me, it would give me closure and I could put the whole episode in the past.

... 'Thank you for your message, reassurance, and professionalism throughout this process.



Reporting of sharps injuries

In case of an Injury from a Contaminated Instrument, please:

- Bleed and wash the affected area immediately (never suck the injury).
- Cover the wound with a waterproof dressing.
- Report the incident immediately* to the 24-hour SCFT Sharps Injury Hotline (Occupational Health & Well-being dept.) on: 01273 242282.
- During out-of-hours, call sharps hotline, leave a message on the sharps hotline with your name and a phone number and attend A&E or Urgent Treatment Centre for assessment.
- If the incident is deemed a high risk for HIV, the individual MUST IMMEDIATELY seek medical attention from A&E or Consultant in Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM).
- Report the injury as a clinical incident via the Trust incident reporting system.

*The urgency of this is because anti-viral prophylaxis ideally needs to be started within an hour of HIV exposure.

Patient Safety News Flash!

Our fourth Patient Safety Partner (PSP) Gill starts this month! She will join Moira, Sarah and Martin in their role of ensuring that the patient voice is represented in patient safety across the Trust! If you have any questions about the role of the PSP, then please do contact the Patient Safety Team on: sc-tr.patientsafetyteam@nhs.net

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Bed Rails and Falls Prevention in ICUs

The decision to supply bed rails is down to clinical judgement and only when the benefit outweighs the risk. In most cases they do not prevent falls, and generally introduce a different risk. If patients are agile and confused enough, they may attempt to climb over the rails and fall from a greater height. They often cause entrapment and therefore injuries. They can also have a negative impact on a patient's ability to maintain their independence. The only time bed rails are indicated is when a patient is at risk of slipping out of bed, or has requested the rails and they are not considered at risk of climbing out. Standard practice is to keep the bed rails down unless indicated on the patient's board/handover sheet. Please see the bed rail policy for further guidance.

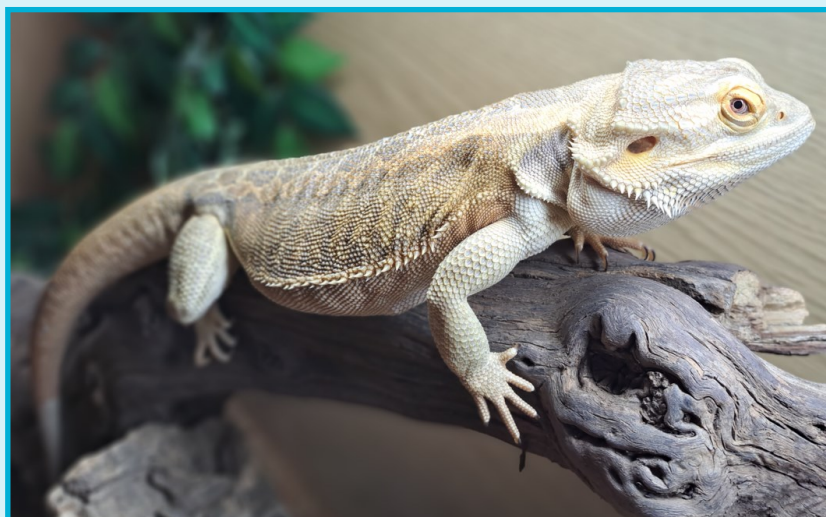
Mascot of the month - Spyro's Spiel

G'day! My name is Spyro, I'm a bearded dragon and I live with the lead speech and language therapist for pathway 1 stroke care in Chichester; she's part of the community neurological rehabilitation team. I eat a varied diet of vegetables and protein sources such as crickets, cockroaches and mealworms. Not so long ago I had an infection in my mouth which made it very difficult to eat. My human decided to just feed me mealworms and a nutrient jelly, rather than let me try to crunch my way through a cockroach; she said it would be easier to have smaller and softer mouthfuls.

When she's not looking after me, she works with other humans who have problems with eating, drinking and swallowing, for example, when the swallowing muscles stop working effectively after having a stroke. The International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative (IDDSI) is an invaluable safety initiative, used by speech and language therapists all over the world to accurately describe and prescribe textures and sizes of food, and viscosity of drinks, so that people can eat and drink enough, as safely as possible.

The beauty of it is that care homes and catering companies are all using it too. This means that if a gentleman in a care home needs to have slightly thick drinks (level 1) and a soft and bite sized diet (level 6), this means the same thing to catering and care staff across the board.

There's a lovely colourful diagram to explain it all on the IDDSI website iddsi.org; in fact it really does look more colourful to me as I can see colour better than you can!



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