

Patient Safety



Sussex Community
NHS Foundation Trust

November 2023

Welcome to the Patient Safety Newsletter...

This month's shout out goes to SCFT Falls and Fracture Prevention Services who carried out walking aid MOTs as part of the Falls Awareness Week 2023. The teams went out to the local care homes and reviewed patient's walking aids to check that they were safe and in good condition. The team replaced the ferules on walking aids that failed their MOT! The teams also used the time with care home managers to promote our service and falls prevention in general.

Having a walking aid MOT and ensuring that these are in good working order supports safer mobility and reduces the risk of falls.

Well done to all staff who carried out this very important MOT to ensure that the risk of falls was lowered for these patients!

Best Wishes,

Debbie, Charlotte, Hannah and Mary Jo



Checking Patients' Medicines on Admission to Intermediate Care Units (ICUs)

Checking patients' medicines on admission to an Intermediate Care Unit (ICU) helps to reduce the risk of medication errors and risk to patient safety. The registered nurse receiving the patient is responsible for checking that the patient arrives with the correct documentation and an adequate supply of labelled medicines. Documentation should include a discharge summary/letter and a printout of the acute trust EPMA chart (MAC) or Medicine Administration Record (MAR) chart. The acute Trust MAC/MAR chart should be cross checked against the medication list in the discharge summary/letter and the medicines received with the patient. If a patient arrives without the correct documentation and/or medication, the discharging ward at the acute trust must be contacted to make arrangements for these to be sent immediately. We know that this happens due to the incidents reported and acknowledge the additional pressure on staff alongside the patient safety aspect.

See also: [The Pulse Documents - medicines-reconciliation-for-adult-intermediate-care-units.pdf - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#) and [The Pulse Documents - management-of-patient's-own-drugs-\(pods\)-in-adult-intermediate-care-units-standard-operating-procedure.pdf - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Patient Safety News Flash!

Our SCFT Patient Safety Incident Response Plan (PSIRP) and policy have been signed off by the Integrated Care Board in October 2023! This means that we can transition to the Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF) which replaces the current Serious Incident Framework. Further communications and training will be delivered to staff as we prepare to launch in January 2024. If you have any questions please contact the Patient Safety Team: sc-tr.patientsafetyteam@nhs.net

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Assessment of patient Post fall in Urgent Care

Patients attending an SCFT Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) or Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) after a fall need a top to toe examination. This is to reduce the risk of missing hidden injuries, particularly for elderly patients. Clinicians are advised to consider the nature and impact of the fall and pay particular attention to the head, spine and hip. Clinicians should follow the head injury NICE Guidance and refer for a CT scan if head injury is suspected. Findings from the assessment, including neuro-observations, should be clearly documented in the patient notes. Useful information is available via these links:

- 1) NICE guideline [NG232] - Head injury: assessment and early management available [here](#).
- 2) Meet Harry—available [here](#).
- 3) Silver Trauma - The Royal College of Emergency Medicine available [here](#).

Mascot of the month - Coco's Communication

Hello I am Coco, and my human works in the Digital Clinical Safety Team as a Digital Nurse Specialist, which sounds like an interesting job to me! My curious nature means that I always want to find out more about it, and from what I have overheard, the digital clinical safety team is responsible for identifying, assessing, and mitigating risks associated with digital health technologies and clinical systems. This involves ensuring compliance with regulations, protecting patient data, assessing clinical accuracy, enhancing usability, and managing incidents. They provide education, continuous monitoring, and contribute to quality improvement efforts. By collaborating with various stakeholders, they facilitate safe and effective healthcare delivery, ultimately improving patient outcomes. This all sounds very interesting and beneficial to patients!

I also overheard my human recently talking about how the Patient Safety Team and the Digital Clinical Safety Team spent a productive morning together discussing how they can work together with the combined goal of promoting patient safety. My human said the morning involved lots of great discussions, including what each of the teams do, and how shared learning from near-misses and incidents will inform digital approaches. That sounds great to me!

Right I am off to sniff out some food, there has to be something I can nibble on around here! 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