Rotherham Hospital cuts its pressure ulcer rates by half

Rotherham Hospital has successfully managed to reduce its rates of pressure ulcers by 50%.

The number of patients with pressure ulcers has fallen dramatically from 87 to 42, and this has been achieved through improved training, enhanced care plans and emphasis on evaluating care and taking appropriate action.

Lead Nurse for Tissue Viability Steph Sheppard said: “Pressure ulcers are a painful area of damaged skin and tissue which can be caused by excess pressure and immobility. A patient’s medical condition can also put them at risk. Ulcers can be an unfortunate consequence of a stay in hospital as patients can be stationary in a bed or chair for long periods of time.

“By making improvements to our processes and taking a collaborative approach with matrons, physios and occupational therapists, we have made a real impact on reducing the instances of patients developing pressure ulcers. The results we are seeing are fantastic and it means in some instances patients have a better experience at the hospital and it prevents a delay in their discharge.

“Better teamwork and improved communication between departments and wards has meant we have seen a big reduction in cases across the Trust, particularly surgery, and everyone in the Trust is working hard to get the numbers down even further.”

According to the Department of Health in the UK, it’s estimated that between four and 10% of all patients admitted to hospital will develop at least one pressure ulcer. For older people with mobility problems, the figure can be as high as 70%. Even with the best possible medical and nursing care, pressure ulcers can be difficult to prevent in vulnerable or older people and difficult to treat.

The estimated annual cost of pressure ulcers in the UK is approximately £2 billion which accounts for about 4% of the NHS budget. The Government is trying to drive down this cost and has introduced guidelines for hospitals to help achieve this.

Steph said: “We have started to achieve savings across the Trust but our main aim is to improve the care and experience for patients whilst they are with us. Lots of different factors contribute to the occurrence of pressure ulcers so we will never be able to stop them all, but we have made a big difference for many patients and made their time with us more comfortable.”

As part of the continued commitment from front line staff and the improved use of care planning to reduce pressure ulcers, more training will be implemented across the Trust. Another project will also be launched in September to enable healthcare workers to focus on reducing instances of patients developing ulcers on their heels after surgery, as this is a very vulnerable area of the body, especially for older people or patients with diabetes. The Trust’s ultimate aim is for no patient to develop an avoidable pressure ulcer in the future.

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Steph Sheppard
Lead Nurse for Tissue Viability
The Pink Ladies and T Birds to help raise funds for Rotherham Hospital Charity

Summer nights had you a blast? Hopelessly devoted to having fun for a good cause? It’s time for all you budding Dannys, Kenickies, Sandys and Rizzos to gel those quiffs and step into those stilletos for a rumble at Rydell High!

For Rotherham Hospital Charity’s next fundraising event - 'Grease is the word' - they are recreating a Grease themed prom ball at Hellaby Hall in Rotherham on Friday 24th September 2010.

Fundraiser Tracy Williams said: "We are all getting into the spirit of Rydell High for this event and it will be a great night out. Fancy dress is optional though so if people don’t fancy greasing their hair and getting their jeans and leather jackets on they can always come in smart ball dress instead. We want to encourage as many people as possible to come to the event and help us raise more funds for the Rotherham Hospital Charity."

All funds will go to the new Purple Butterfly Appeal – to improve end of life care. The funds will be used to ensure the Trust’s high standards of care are matched with additional facilities and services that provide home comforts, maintain dignity and privacy and allow patients and their loved ones the support they need when time is most precious.

Tickets for the Grease prom ball are £35 and include a three course meal, a disco and entertainment from the Gillian Banks’ Showcase Girls. Anyone who fancies showing off their ‘hand jive’ and joining the crew back in the 1950’s for some rock’n’roll should call Fundraiser Tracy on 01709 307589.

Trust investigation leads to prison for fraudster

Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust’s Counter Fraud Specialist Neil Mohan, said: “This is a big result for the Trust and the National Health Service. Fraud costs the NHS millions of pounds every year and we are trying to do our bit to stop it. Prosecutions like this send out a stark message that it is not acceptable to defraud a public body. We take fraud very seriously and investigate any potential false claims against the Trust.”

The Trust’s Counter Fraud Specialist Neil Mohan.

If you have any concern about a fraud against the Trust, or would like to know more about the Trust’s efforts to deal with fraud, please contact Counter Fraud Specialist Neil Mohan on 01509 604029 or by e-mail to neil.mohan@rothgen.nhs.uk.

AGM

This year’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on the 15 September.

It will be held in the Lecture Theatre on D Level at Rotherham Hospital from 5.15pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

If you have a story that you would like to see in a future issue of Newsweek, please get in touch with Communications on extenion 7563 or email communication@rothgen.nhs.uk.