

Open and Honest Care in your Local Hospital



The *Open and Honest Care: Driving Improvement* Programme aims to support organisations to become more transparent and consistent in publishing safety, experience and improvement data; with the overall aim of improving care, practice and culture.

Report for:

**St Helens & Knowsley NHS
Teaching Hospitals**

January 2015

Open and Honest Care at St Helens & Knowsley NHS Teaching Hospitals : January 2015

This report is based on information from January 2015. The information is presented in three key categories: safety, experience and improvement. This report will also signpost you towards additional information about St Helens & Knowsley NHS Teaching Hospitals's performance.

1. SAFETY

Safety thermometer

On one day each month we check to see how many of our patients suffered certain types of harm whilst in our care. We call this the NHS Safety Thermometer. The safety thermometer looks at four harms: pressure ulcers, falls, blood clots and urine infections for those patients who have a urinary catheter in place. This helps us to understand where we need to make improvements. The score below shows the percentage of patients who did not experience any harms.

98.2% of patients did not experience any of the four harms

For more information, including a breakdown by category, please visit:

<http://www.safetythermometer.nhs.uk/>

Health care associated infections (HCAIs)

HCAIs are infections acquired as a result of healthcare interventions. Clostridium difficile (C.difficile) and methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bacteremia are the most common. C.difficile is a type of bacterial infection that can affect the digestive system, causing diarrhoea, fever and painful abdominal cramps - and sometimes more serious complications. The bacteria does not normally affect healthy people, but because some antibiotics remove the 'good bacteria' in the gut that protect against C.difficile, people on these antibiotics are at greater risk.

The MRSA bacteria is often carried on the skin and inside the nose and throat. It is a particular problem in hospitals because if it gets into a break in the skin it can cause serious infections and blood poisoning. It is also more difficult to treat than other bacterial infections as it is resistant to a number of widely-used antibiotics.

We have a zero tolerance policy to infections and are working towards eradicating them; part of this process is to set improvement targets. If the number of actual cases is greater than the target then we have not improved enough. The table below shows the number of infections we have had this month, plus the improvement target and results for the year to date.

	C.difficile	MRSA
This month	6	0
Annual Improvement target	19	0
Actual to date	40	2

For more information please visit:

www.sthk.nhs.uk

Pressure ulcers

Pressure ulcers are localised injuries to the skin and/or underlying tissue as a result of pressure. They are sometimes known as bedsores. They can be classified into four categories, with one being the least severe and four being the most severe. **The pressure ulcers reported include all validated avoidable/unavoidable pressure ulcers that were obtained at any time during a hospital admission that were not present on initial assessment.**

This month 5 Category 2 - Category 4 pressure ulcers were acquired during hospital stays.

Severity	Number of pressure ulcers
Category 2	3
Category 3	2
Category 4	0

The pressure ulcer numbers include all pressure ulcers that occurred from hours after admission to this Trust.

So we can know if we are improving even if the number of patients we are caring for goes up or down, we also calculate an average called 'rate per 1,000 occupied bed days'. This allows us to compare our improvement over time, but cannot be used to compare us with other hospitals, as their staff may report pressure ulcers in different ways, and their patients may be more or less vulnerable to developing pressure ulcers than our patients. For example, other hospitals may have younger or older patient populations, who are more or less mobile, or are undergoing treatment for different illnesses.

Rate per 1000 bed days:	0.27
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Falls

This measure includes all falls in the hospital that resulted in injury, categorised as moderate, severe or death, regardless of cause. **This includes avoidable and unavoidable falls sustained at any time during the hospital admission.**

This month we reported 6 fall(s) that caused at least 'moderate' harm.

Severity	Number of falls
Moderate	4
Severe	2
Death	0

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Rate per 1,000 bed days:	0.32
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2. EXPERIENCE

To measure patient and staff experience we ask a number of questions. The idea is simple: if you like using a certain product or doing business with a particular company you like to share this experience with others.

The answers given are used to give a score which is the percentage of patients who responded that they would recommend our service to their friends and family.



Patient experience

The Friends and Family Test

The Friends and Family Test (FFT) requires all patients, after discharge, to be asked: *How likely are you to recommend our ward to friends and family if they needed similar care or treatment?* We ask this question to patients who have been an in-patient or attended A&E (if applicable) in our Trust.

In-patient FFT score*	97.05%	% recommended	This is based on 644 responses.
A&E FFT Score	95.91%	% recommended	This is based on 440 responses

*This result may have changed since publication, for the latest score please visit:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/friends-and-family-test/friends-and-family-test-data/>

We also asked 167 patients the following questions about their care:

	% Recommended
Were you involved as much as you wanted to be in the decisions about your care and treatment?	88
If you were concerned or anxious about anything while you were in hospital, did you find a member of staff to talk to?	92
Were you given enough privacy when discussing your condition or treatment?	92
During your stay were you treated with compassion by hospital staff?	96
Did you always have access to the call bell when you needed it?	95
Did you get the care you felt you required when you needed it most?	95
How likely are you to recommend our ward/unit to friends and family if they needed similar care or treatment?	96

A patient's story

Praise to the Obstetrics & Gynaecology Unit

I wish to make you aware of the amazing staff you have working in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. I first met Mr Nwosu, Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, back in 2003 when i was pregnant with my first child and straight away I felt at ease and trusted him. I have always felt like the only patient of Mr Nwosu and the whole reason I choose to carry on returning to Whiston for my obstetric care was because of him. I fully trust he will do all in his power to help my baby get to a viable gestation, and when we lost our baby, Mr Nwosu was fantastic in helping us get through it and set a plan up for future pregnancies, which worked fantastically.

I just want to let you know that he is a credit to the team, department and most importantly your hospital. You should feel honoured and proud to have such an outstanding doctor on your team.

Staff experience

We asked 113 staff the following questions:

	% Recommended
I would recommend this ward/unit as a place to work	86
I would recommend the standard of care on this ward/unit to a friend or relative if they needed treatment	91
I am satisfied with the quality of care I give to the patients, carers and their families	89

3. IMPROVEMENT

Improvement story: we are listening to our patients and making changes

Recently a number of concerns were raised by patients in relation to noise levels on the wards. In response to this the Trust are currently trialling the use of ear plugs and eye masks (where appropriate) which will be given as part of a 'welcome pack'. This initiative is being led by a Health Care Assistant and the Trust Research Team have offered support to enable an audit of this measure and evaluate the outcomes.

Supporting information

Infection Control -

You will notice from the report above that the C.difficile figures are increasing against our targets. However, the Trust has engaged in an appeals process against a number of these results. The Trust has a robust action plan to work towards reducing the numbers of cases.

Falls -

Please note that these numbers may be subject to change upon an indepth investigaton of an incident

Pressure Ulcers -

Please note that the grade 3 reported pressure ulcers were unfortunately unavoidable. The definition of an unavoidable pressure ulcer is: "Unavoidable" means that the person receiving care developed a pressure ulcer even though the provider of the care had evaluated the person's clinical condition and pressure ulcer risk factors; planned and implemented interventions that are consistent with the persons needs and goals; and recognised standards of practice; monitored and evaluated the impact of the interventions; and revised the approaches as appropriate; or the individual person refused to adhere to prevention strategies in spite of education of the consequences of non-adherence"

