

# Primary Care Matters

Practice staff newsletter

## Welcome

Welcome to the July edition of Primary Care Matters.

Tackling the harm caused by alcohol is a priority for both our local healthcare community and the wider NHS, with more than £3 billion pounds per annum spent by the NHS on alcohol-related diseases, and more than 70 per cent of these costs are absorbed by acute trusts like ours.



Dr Sean O'Kelly,  
Medical Director

our services both at an individual patient level (through an increasing incidence of alcohol attributable diseases) but also at an organisational level, with many potentially avoidable alcohol-related admissions, missed appointments and longer hospital stays. Our Division of Medicine has appointed consultant Dr Anne McCune to lead on alcohol issues, pathways and policy working with partners within and outside the Trust.

The Trust is committed to delivering best care. Our vision is for Bristol and our hospitals to be among the best and safest places in the country to receive care. So we made an early commitment to a new national campaign – Sign up to Safety. Please see below for more details.

We now understand more fully how alcohol impacts on

## Aortic dissection education programme

Clinicians at University Hospitals Bristol have worked collaboratively to develop a program to educate medics across the South West on aortic dissection, after previous missed diagnoses at the Trust.

In 2013, emergency department consultant Emma Redfern attended the inquest of a UH Bristol patient who had been misdiagnosed and treated for gastro-oesophageal reflux. In fact, the patient had suffered an aortic dissection and sadly passed away 24 hours after discharge from the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

As part of a serious incident panel review, Emma and consultant cardiac surgeon Alan Bryan looked into missed cases of aortic dissection at the Trust, to develop an education program to ensure the same thing didn't happen again. Their programme has been delivered to consultants and junior doctors across the Trust. This has educated staff across adult services on the diagnosis and symptoms of patients presenting with aortic dissection, with plans to roll out more training across the South West.

Aortic dissection occurs when a tear in the inner wall of the aorta causes blood to flow between the layers of the wall of the aorta, forcing the layers apart. Emma said: "Symptoms are very varied and present in many ways, including episodes of intense pain in the chest and back. Patients most likely affected are males and females in their 40s or older.

"It is essential aortic dissection is picked up early. Diagnosed patients are operated on immediately by our cardiac surgery team. Early diagnosis will increase the success rate, and we therefore encourage anyone experiencing unusual symptoms of sudden intense pain in the chest or back to go to their local emergency department to be checked."

Clinical examinations, bloods and X rays are not enough to diagnose aortic dissection, and to do so a CT scan must be carried out. With support from the radiology department, the number of CT scans being carried out has increased considerably to prevent another case being missed.

Emma said: "Since our investigations, we have realised the need to test for the condition through CT scanning. In 2009, prior to the review, we carried out fewer than 20 CT scans over the year to test for aortic dissection and other conditions. However, last year we carried out more than 180 CT scans."

Graham Papworth was diagnosed and treated for aortic dissection in April 2014. He underwent life-saving surgery hours after he was assessed in the ED at the BRI. Since making a full recovery, Graham has given his time to share his experiences with a speaking slot at the University of the West of England Patient Safety conference in September 2014, with Professor Jonathan Benger, and is

involved in a medical research funding bid with the BRI and UWE.

Graham said "Thanks to the quick, accurate diagnosis I'm still alive today and have retained all of my limbs, organs and bodily functions. I firmly believe this is due to the great team at the BRI. The team operated on me within hours of my arrival at A&E and three days later I found myself in intensive care, followed by a visit to the high dependency unit and ward 52. Throughout this journey I was looked after by fantastic, caring teams and also had brilliant support from my wife, children, family and friends."

Emma added: "As a department, we have learned the condition is more common than we had thought. Before our training, I would have expected to have seen no more than one case a year. We are now picking up, on average, a case every six to eight weeks.

"The Trust has learned that this catastrophic condition can sometimes present in young patients, who can look well between episodes of pain. While the diagnosis remains challenging, our doctors and nurses are far more aware of aortic dissection.

"It remains a difficult condition to spot, but following the missed diagnosis in 2013 we have created an excellent programme that is helping us move in the right direction."

## Burns research at UH Bristol benefits from marvellous charity grant

Burns nurses at Bristol Royal Hospital for Children are exploring new ways to address the emotional and psychological effects of burns injuries, thanks to funding from Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity.

The team have been awarded £14,647 to study patient's and families' experiences of burn care, and their emotional and psychological needs following a serious burn injury.

They will also assess the support that is currently available and identify any ways in which the services could be improved.

Karen Coy, senior research nurse at the Healing Foundation Children's Burns Research Centre at BRHC, said: "This is a great opportunity, provided by the Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity.

"It will allow nurses to lead their own research projects and focus on an area of children's healthcare that is less understood and researched, to

implement changes which go on to improve care for this group of children."

The project team will also develop a short film for children, parents and staff to illustrate the feelings and emotions associated with burns injuries, and develop targeted support information for use in the wider burns nursing community.

The BRHC project is one of 12 nurse-led research projects designed to improve the quality of care for seriously ill children and young people.

Richard Piper, CEO of Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity, said "Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity has been creating new Roald Dahl specialist children's nurse posts around the UK for more than twenty years, and we will continue to do so.

"Now, we also want to empower nurses to act upon their ideas by helping them to lead on their own innovative and practical

research. All good children's nurses see the child, not the condition. This insight, combined with their day-to-day experiences at the frontline of care, makes nurses brilliantly placed to spot new ideas for improvements."

Sophie Dziwinski, programme manager at Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity, said "We are delighted to be working with the twelve selected nurse teams from the across the UK, many of whom are already busy working on their projects.

"The projects we have chosen cover a wide range medical disciplines and each project is unique in its approach to improving children's care. We are excited to see how each team progresses."

The projects, which are spread across the UK, have been funded through the charity's Marvellous Nurse Inventing Room scheme, with support from the Burdett Trust for Nursing.

## UH Bristol signs up to safety

Sign up to  
SAFETY  
LISTEN LEARN ACT

Sign up to Safety aims to deliver harm-free care for every patient, every time, everywhere.

It champions openness and honesty and supports everyone to improve the safety of patients.

The Trust is holding a launch event from 10am to 12pm on 31 July in lecture theatre one, Education Centre, for staff, patients, stakeholders including GPs, and the public.

Please come and join our campaign. If you would like to attend and find out more, please email [signuptosafety@uhbristol.nhs.uk](mailto:signuptosafety@uhbristol.nhs.uk) or tweet us @UHBristolNHS to let us know you are coming.

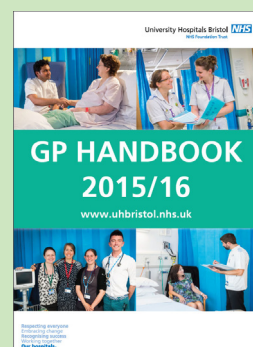
The Trust has launched a new three year patient safety improvement campaign called 'Sign up to Safety'.

The project is part of a national campaign that aims to make the NHS in England the safest healthcare system in the world.

The ambition for the NHS in England is to halve avoidable harm in the NHS and save 6,000 lives as a result.

## New GP handbook out

Practices should by now have received their copies of the updated UH Bristol GP Handbook, giving details of services and consultants.



If your practice has not received copies, or you require additional ones, please email [GPLiaison@UHBristol.nhs.uk](mailto:GPLiaison@UHBristol.nhs.uk)

Copies are also available to download here. This online copy will be updated periodically.