



Your Trust News

Newsletter for the members of Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Success in fight against **MRSA**

Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has welcomed the latest Department of Health national report on MRSA bacteraemia figures.

The Trust has again performed very well compared to other healthcare Trusts in the region and nationally. At the end of the nine months up to 31 December 2005 the Trust had recorded seven cases of MRSA bacteraemia within its hospitals.

Chris Wilkinson, director of nursing, said: "We are very pleased to have performed well in our fight against MRSA bacteraemia infection within our hospitals during the last year.

"Members of the Infection Control Team work closely with other clinical, non-clinical and cleaning staff to reduce the risk of hospital acquired infections. These results are a testament to the

vigilance of staff and their compliance with policies in place to help prevent and control infection.

"We must also thank visitors to the Trust who have been helping in the fight against MRSA by following the Clean Your Hands guidance and using alcohol gel to clean their hands when they have been with a patient or are entering or leaving a ward."

The figures show a drop on the previous year (13 for the same period in 2004) and the Trust's aim is that it is a trend that will continue.

Chris Wilkinson added: "We are definitely heading in the right direction and have very robust infection prevention and control procedures in place but we are not complacent and are always looking to improve."



Visiting Times Results

We are delighted by the response to our questionnaire regarding our patient visiting policy. We have had more than 500 responses together with around one hundred useful comments. 50 per-cent of respondents preferred core visiting times, 20 per-cent separate evening and afternoon sessions and 30 per-cent open visiting. The results firmly supported the continued restriction of visitors to two or three at any one time and the welcoming of children at visiting hours when supervised by a visiting adult. Your responses will be taken into account in our review of the visiting policy and we will keep you updated on progress through the newsletter.

Thank you for your response.

Non-Executive Director Appointment

Dr Sarah Raper, Non Executive Director, has been successful in achieving the post of chief executive for Telford First, a regeneration company, and will therefore be leaving the area and will finish at the Trust at the end of March. An advert for her replacement is on page 3.



Members' Helpline (01733) 343 221

See back page for
**Members'
meetings**

Financial savings plan update

– letter from Chris Banks

Dear Member,

I would like to update you on the latest phase of Peterborough & Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust financial savings plan.

As you will recall, the two-year plan was launched in November 2005 in response to the need to secure a sound financial footing in the face of major changes within the NHS both nationally and locally. It builds on a plan which is already well underway and is designed to get the Trust fully fit for the future.

For the first nine months of this financial year the Trust has run within its budget and went into the final quarter £0.5m in deficit - a far better position than at the same time last year. However, the Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), who pay for everyone's hospital care, have indicated they wish to reduce the amount of services they buy from the Trust by around £3m. This will hit the Trust in the final quarter of this financial year.

This means the Trust will probably end the year in deficit and in anticipation of a possible further contract reduction next year plus increased competition with the private sector, the Trust has to change the way it works.

Work has been continuing on the plan since its launch and the Trust has identified a number of efficiency savings that can be made while maintaining standards of clinical care.

As part of the savings plan 185 posts have been identified as potentially at risk. Approximately 85 are from management, support and administration posts and 100 are from clinical posts. Announcing 185 posts are potentially at risk does not mean the same number of people will be

made redundant. The Trust will work with members of staff at risk and their union representatives to find suitable alternative positions within the Trust.

From the ward closures last year all ward staff were successfully redeployed. This was achieved by slotting staff into vacancies created by staff leavers. Approximately 400 staff leave the Trust voluntarily each year.

The latest savings plan will also see a reduction across the Peterborough hospitals of around 60 beds during the next two years. The way the Trust works will change because of the trend towards conducting more surgical procedures as day cases, reducing lengths of stay in hospital through better management of patients and a reduction in patient referrals from GPs as PCTs invest more in care in the community.

A great deal of work will also take place to improve systems and procedures in order to increase efficiency and further reduce costs. One of the system changes will be the creation of a centralised admissions booking centre so that patients receive a much faster and more consistent service. Work is still at the early stages and details will be announced in the near future.

As we said when we launched this plan, the whole way healthcare is provided is changing and we have to respond to it or our services could be at risk in the long-term.

We have looked closely at where we can make further savings while maintaining high standards of clinical care and making sure patients are not adversely affected. I would like to be clear; we are not proposing savings that

will be of detriment to patient care in either quality or the speed of treatment – doing so would make no sense and would not benefit patients or the Trust. We are focusing on areas that are either not running as efficiently as they could be or will be in less demand due to reduced PCT contracts.

We have already proven we can continue to provide excellent patient care and meet government targets with a more streamlined workforce and fewer beds and we are confident we will continue to do so.

Changes to the wards during the summer were made with no redundancies and we are hoping for a similar outcome, though it will be harder this time. We will, of course, work very closely with all of our staff and union representatives and keep them fully informed as the work develops.

The savings plan will create annual cost savings of approximately £6m from March 2008. This will enable the Trust to start repaying its deficit, build a contingency for future years and cover the lost income from commissioning PCTs. It will also improve the chances of the new PFI hospital being approved.

As previously announced, Stamford Hospital is not closing and the latest savings plan will have little impact on it.

I hope this briefing is helpful to you. If you have any further questions please contact our members' helpline on 01733 343221.



Yours faithfully,

Chris Banks,
Chief Executive



Members' Helpline (01733) 343 221

Non-Executive Director Appointment

Ref: 176-365.F
Cost code: F-004

Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals has been an NHS Foundation Trust since April 2004. The Trust serves a catchment population of 280,000, has an annual operating budget of £150 million and employs over 3000 staff.

This is an exciting and challenging time for the Trust. We are keen to use foundation status to strengthen our local partnerships, focus even more on local healthcare needs and continue to be a successful organisation in the new competitive healthcare market. There is an important leadership role to be played by Non-Executive Directors. The main purpose of the role is to ensure that the Trust has clear objectives to deliver agreed health services, that resources are used to maximise benefits for patients and that there are effective control arrangements in place to secure high levels of probity and value for money.

A vacancy has arisen due to the relocation of one of our existing non-executive directors to another part of the country. We are looking for candidates with a genuine commitment to making a community contribution whose skills complement those of the current team. Applicants should have gained experience in a large commercial or public sector enterprise in either finance, business development, corporate communications or marketing. You will need to be able to give a time commitment of approximately 2-3 days per month, and must live in the Trust's membership area. Remuneration is £11,000 p.a. Initial queries concerning the role can be made to Jane Pigg, Company Secretary on (01733) 874174.

There will also be an open information session for interested candidates where there will be an opportunity to meet with other Board Directors and Governors to find out more about the role and the Trust from 12:30 to 13:30pm on Tuesday 7 March at Edith Cavell Hospital.

To obtain an application pack telephone (01733) 874222 (24-hour voicemail), or visit our website at www.peterboroughandstamford.nhs.uk. Please note that the deadline for receipt of completed applications is 5pm on the closing date.

Closing Date: 13 March 2006

Interview Date: 27 March 2006

The Trust is committed to flexible working practices and is an equal opportunities employer. We operate a no-smoking policy and staff are not permitted to smoke on Trust premises.

Visit our website at www.peterboroughandstamford.nhs.uk for more information.

Nutrition Day



Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust took part in the first ever European-wide investigation into the nutritional status of patients in hospital.

The aim of 'Nutrition Day in European Hospitals' held on 19 January was to assess the nutritional status of hospital patients to ensure they are receiving a good diet.

Maria Leveridge, senior dietician, said: "The Trust was pleased to take part in the first European assessment day as it will give our team a good overview of what the patients' nutritional status is and how much they eat and drink and allows us to see if we can make any improvements".

Members of the Patient and Public Involvement forum (PPI) handed out questionnaires to patients on wards at the Trust.



Maria Leveridge, senior dietician, with members of the Patient and Public Involvement forum (PPI) Frieda Gosling and Diana Millard

The collected data is being anonymously analysed and the results of each ward made available to the Trust. 18 countries took part in European Nutrition Day.

The Patient-Led NHS Reorganisations – Have Your Say

Consultation is currently ongoing regarding changes to local Primary Care Trusts. Amongst their range of responsibilities that include GP services, public health and district nursing, Primary Care Trusts are responsible for setting the levels of services that we provide to our patients and fund us to these levels. The current consultations include options to merge Primary Care Trusts to a county-wide level e.g. Cambridgeshire rather than the current Greater Peterborough area and Lincolnshire rather than the current South West Lincolnshire area. Whilst these mergers are aimed at reducing management overheads which should be released for patient care, we have concerns that the changes will affect good working relationships with social services and reduce the funding available to local services, including ourselves, due to significant financial problems being experienced in these wider areas. Have your say on these and other consultations, full details of which are available at www.ncsha.org.uk/yoursay/cplnhs/ or direct from your local Primary Care Trust headquarters.

Audio-taped members' newsletters now available

Audio tapes of *Your Trust News* are now available on request. If you would like to receive a copy please contact Kerry Pettitt on (01733) 875844.



Board of Governors meeting dates

- Wednesday 12 April – 6:00pm
St John's Boardroom,
nr Peterborough Maternity Unit
- Thursday 13 July – 6:00pm
St John's Boardroom,
nr Peterborough Maternity Unit
- Tuesday 10 October – 4:00pm
Stamford Hospital Restaurant

Open Board of Directors meetings

- Tuesday 2 May – 2:00pm
Stamford Hospital Restaurant
- Tuesday 1 August – 2:00pm
Committee Room, ECH
- Tuesday 7 November – 2:00pm
Committee Room, ECH

Missed out!

More than 10 per-cent of outpatients do not attend their appointment each year at Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals.

This amounts to approximately 18,000 appointments which could have been offered to other patients. The new Choose and Book system will help to bring this figure down by allowing patients to choose their hospital or clinic and book an appointment themselves.

What is Choose and Book?

Choose and Book (CAB) is a national service that, for the first time, combines electronic booking and a choice of place, date and time for first outpatient appointments. It revolutionises our current booking system, with patients able to choose

their initial hospital appointment, and book it on the spot in the surgery or later on the phone or via the internet at a time that is more convenient to them.

The benefits of Choose and Book:

- Patients will agree the date and time of their appointment at the point of referral
- Patients will have a choice of at least four hospitals
- The transfer of the patients referral letter from the GP to the hospital is electronic.

Patient and Public Involvement Forum

Request for your views

Enclosed with this newsletter is a questionnaire from the Patient and Public Involvement Forum regarding our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). The Forum is an independent organisation whose role is to monitor and review services arranged and or provided by the trust from the perspective of the patient.

Website

The Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals website can be accessed at www.peterboroughandstamford.nhs.uk Here you will be able to access the members' website and find out up to the minute information about your trust.