

Open and Honest Care in your Local Hospitals

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:

**Northumbria Healthcare NHS
Foundation Trust**

August 2016

Open and Honest Care at Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust : August 2016

This report is based on information from August 2016. The information is presented in three key categories: safety, experience and improvement. This report will also signpost you towards additional information about Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's performance.

1. SAFETY

NHS 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 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.

93.1% of patients did not experience any of the four harms whilst an in patient in our hospital

93.5% of patients did not experience any of the four harms whilst we were providing their care in the community setting

Overall 93.3% of patients did not experience any of the four harms in this trust.

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.

Patients in hospital setting	C.difficile	MRSA
This month	3	0
Trust Improvement target (year to date)	<30	0
Actual to date	10	3

For more information please visit:

<https://www.northumbria.nhs.uk/quality-and-safety/keeping-patients-safe>

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 avoidable/unavoidable pressure ulcers that were obtained at any time during a hospital admission that were not present on initial assessment.**

This month 11 Category 2 - Category 4 validated pressure ulcers were acquired during Acute hospital stay and 8 in the community.

Severity	Number of Pressure Ulcers in our Acute Hospital Setting	Number of Pressure Ulcers in our North Tyneside Community Setting	Number of Pressure Ulcers in our Northumberland Community Setting
Category 2	6	0	6
Category 3	5	0	1
Category 4	0	0	1

In the hospital setting, so we know if we are improving even if the number of patients we are caring for goes up or down, we 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 1,000 bed days: 0.45 Hospital Setting

For the community setting we also calculate an average called 'rate per 10,000 CCG population.

Rate per 10,000 population: 0.00 North Tyneside

Rate per 10,000 population: 0.25 Northumberland

The pressure ulcer numbers include all pressure ulcers that occurred from 72 hours after admission to this Trust

In August 2016 we recorded the following ungradeable/unstageable pressure ulcers:

4 in the Acute setting

3 in the Community setting

We use the term category or grading for pressure ulcers which are categorised or graded from 1-4 as per the National Institute Clinical Excellence (NICE) and European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (EPUAP) guidance. Not all Pressure Ulcers can be categorised/graded and for these ulcers we use the term ungradeable/unstageable. An ungradeable ulcer cannot be graded as the base of the wound is not exposed and the true depth therefore cannot be determined. It takes time and treatment to expose the base of a wound and in some ulcers it may not be appropriate to do this. For reporting we record all ungradeable/unstageable ulcers as grade 3 until such time that the ulcer can be graded.

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.** Falls within the community setting are not included in this report.

This month we reported 8 fall(s) that caused at least 'moderate' harm.

Severity	Number of falls
Moderate	6
Severe	2
Death	0

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 falls in different ways, and their patients may be more or less vulnerable to falling 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 1,000 bed days: 0.33

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 requires all patients, after discharge from hospital, 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 and/or attended Accident & Emergency (A&E) or the Maternity service or in the community. All scores (if applicable) are below;*

In-patient FFT score ¹	98.6	% recommended. This is based on 1322 patients asked
A&E FFT score	92.2	% recommended. This is based on 371 patients asked
Maternity FFT score	98.7	% recommended. This is based on 308 patients asked
Community FFT score	98.6	% recommended. This is based on 2780 patients asked

¹ 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 patients the following questions about their care in the hospital:

Sometimes in a hospital, a member of staff will say one thing and another will say something quite different. Did this happen to you?

Yes, always	0%
Most of the time	0%
Some of the time	3%
Hardly ever	5%
No	92%

How would you rate how well the doctors and nurses worked together?

Excellent	88%
Very Good	11%
Good	1%
Fair	0%
Poor	0%

Overall, did you feel you were treated with respect and dignity while you were in the hospital?

Yes, always	97%
Most of the time	3%
Some of the time	1%
Hardly ever	0%
No	0%

Were you involved as much as you wanted to be in decisions about your care and treatment?

Yes, always	96%
Most of the time	2%
Some of the time	1%
Hardly ever	0%
No	0%

How much information about your condition or treatment was given to you?

None at all	2%
Not enough	6%
The right amount	91%
Bit too much	1%
Too much	0%

Did you receive timely information about your care and treatment?

Yes, always	95%
Most of the time	3%
Some of the time	1%
Hardly ever	1%
No	0%

Did you find someone on the hospital staff to talk to about your worries and fears?

Yes, always	73%
Most of the time	2%
Some of the time	1%
Hardly ever	0%
No	0%
I had no worries or fears	23%

When you had important questions to ask a doctor, did you get answers that you could understand?

Yes, always	88%
Most of the time	7%
Some of the time	2%
Hardly ever	0%
No	0%
I had no need to ask	2%

Did you have confidence and trust in the doctors treating you?

Yes, always	96%
Most of the time	3%
Some of the time	1%
Hardly ever	0%
No	0%

Did the doctors talk in front of you as if you weren't there?

Yes, always	1%
Most of the time	0%
Some of the time	1%
Hardly ever	1%
No	97%

When you had important questions to ask a nurse, did you get answers that you could understand?

Yes, always	95%
Most of the time	2%
Some of the time	1%
Hardly ever	0%
No	0%
I had no need to ask	2%

Did you have confidence and trust in the nurses treating you?

Yes, always	97%
Most of the time	2%
Some of the time	1%
Hardly ever	0%
No	0%

Did nurses talk in front of you as if you weren't there?

Yes, always	0%
Most of the time	0%
Some of the time	1%
Hardly ever	2%
No	98%

In your opinion, how clean was the hospital room or ward that you were in?

Excellent	88%
Very Good	11%
Good	1%
Fair	0%
Poor	0%

How clean were the toilets and bathroom that you used while in hospital?

Excellent	88%
Very Good	10%
Good	2%
Fair	0%
Poor	0%

As far as you know, did doctors wash or clean their hands between touching patients?

Yes, always	97%
Most of the time	3%
Some of the time	0%
Hardly ever	0%
No	0%

As far as you know, did nurses wash or clean their hands between touching patients?

Yes, always	97%
Most of the time	3%
Some of the time	0%
Hardly ever	0%
No	0%

Do you think the hospital staff did everything they could to help control your pain?

Yes, always	97%
Most of the time	3%
Some of the time	0%
Hardly ever	0%
No	0%

Were you given sufficient explanation about the purpose of any new medications.

Yes, always	96%
Most of the time	1%
Some of the time	1%
Hardly ever	0%
No	2%

Did any member of staff tell you about medication side effects to watch for?

Yes, always	56%
Most of the time	0%
Some of the time	1%
Hardly ever	0%
No	42%

Were you told how to take your medication in a way you could understand?

Yes, always	94%
Most of the time	0%
Some of the time	1%
Hardly ever	0%
No	6%

Were you ever bothered by noise at night from Hospital staff?

Yes, always	0%
Most of the time	0%
Some of the time	3%
Hardly ever	4%
No	92%

Were you ever bothered by noise at night from other patients?

Yes, always	0%
Most of the time	2%
Some of the time	6%
Hardly ever	9%
No	83%

Were you treated with kindness and compassion by the staff looking after you?

Yes, always	97%
Most of the time	2%
Some of the time	0%
Hardly ever	0%
No	0%

How likely are you to recommend this ward to friends and family if they needed similar care or treatment?

Extremely Likely	94%
Likely	4%
Neither likely nor likely	1%
Unlikely	1%
Extremely unlikely	1%
Don't know	0%

A patient's story

Comment from a Patient cared for on Ward 15 Day Surgery Unit, Wansbeck General Hospital.

I came to the ward on the 15th of August for a tendon transfer and carpal tunnel release. I was greeted warmly and quickly at reception, and taken straight to the ward, where a nurse immediately introduced themselves with a smile, showed me my bed, and explained that another nurse would soon come and get me ready. This nurse arrived within a minute, introduced themselves, and checked all my details, interspersing them with conversation, which put me straight at my ease. The nurse had a good sense of humour, which was also a help! I'd not brought a dressing gown or slippers, but this was no problem: they kitted me out with both. After showing me their 'trick of the trade' with the special socks, the nurse told me the anaesthetist would soon be along to have a chat. They were also very friendly, and efficient, and explained that either nerve block or general anaesthetic would be appropriate. Almost at the same time, the surgeon arrived, greeted me very warmly and then explained very clearly- by marking my hand!- what they proposed to do. Then I had quite a long wait, during which time the nurses checked a couple of times that I was OK. Eventually another nurse introduced themselves and started me off on my journey to the theatre. We had a good chat en route, and a bit of a joke with the surgeon, who borrowed their pen. In the ante chamber of the theatre, fish and chips was the topic of conversation as I waited to be anaesthetised. There seemed to be two surgeons, the anaesthetist and the nurse, and everyone seemed to have a good rapport. Some time later I woke up on the ward, the surgeon checked I was OK and *compus mentis*, and the first smiling nurse served me tea and toast. I even got a second cup. The care here was fantastic: it reminded me of the one special occasion when I flew business class, as I received the same sort of genuine care. Everyone was so kind and thoughtful, that it didn't really feel as if I was in hospital. Huge thanks to everyone.

Source: NHS Choices website.

Staff Experience

Every quarter we ask our staff the following two questions (quarter one Friends and Family Test - Staff). We ask these questions to different staff groups across the business units each quarter so all staff groups have the opportunity to respond. Staff from Estates, Facilities, Corporate Services and Medicine Business Units participated in the quarter one results below;

How likely are you to recommend Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust to friends and family if they needed care or treatment?	87.9%
How likely are you to recommend Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust to friends and family as a place to work?	79.6%

The staff experience questions in quarter one were collected from 20th June until 18th July 2016. 3,955 staff were invited to participate of which we had 850 staff respond with a response rate of 21%.

3. IMPROVEMENT

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

Ward 16 - Palliative Care Unit, Wansbeck General Hospital

A consultant on the Palliative Care Unit at Wansbeck had noticed that over a period of a few months that the Real Time (Face to Face patient surveys) score for the 'Noise at Night' domain had dropped on the ward. The Patient Experience Team shared the questions with the consultant and summarised any comments related to noise at night. The ward team worked on any issues relating to noise at night from the staff and patients. The Patient Experience Team measured again in July and August and the scores for Noise at Night domain have improved.

Noise at Night: April 86% May 92% June 89% July 98% August 97%