

Diabetes

15th August 2011

PRESS RELEASE

Audit findings help transform diabetes care in Dudley

Care for people in Dudley with diabetes staying at Russells Hall Hospital has improved in the last year thanks to a newly expanded diabetes team and new ways of working.

Inpatients with diabetes at The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust are now seen more regularly by specialists, stay in hospital for less time and have better control of their diabetes following discharge.

The Trust took part in the first ever National Diabetes Inpatient Audit (NaDIA) in 2009 which looked at the care inpatients with diabetes received, how long they stayed in hospital and how well they recovered.

The audit, funded and run by NHS Diabetes, a national organisation working to improve the services and quality of care received by people with diabetes, looked at all patients with diabetes to help the NHS understand how well diabetes is managed alongside other conditions.

The audit findings confirmed the Trust was performing slightly better than the national average, but it showed there was room for improvement.

Using the findings of the audit, the diabetes team employed another consultant and extra diabetes specialist nurses to further improve the services offered to patients with diabetes.

It also implemented ThinkGlucose – a way of working that helps staff on wards to be more aware of the importance of managing blood sugar levels in people with diabetes.

“Once the newly expanded team got ThinkGlucose in place, things really started to improve for our patients,” said Dr Jane Dale, Consultant Physician and Endocrinologist.

“We’ve now got a diabetes team visiting the wards six days a week to check on patients, and we’ve put new systems in place so everyone knows what to do if a person with diabetes’ blood sugar levels becomes dangerously low.”

“We’ve seen a reduction in the length of time people with diabetes stay in hospital, and, very importantly, we’ve seen that people who stayed in hospital have also been able to better manage their blood sugar levels after being discharged.

“This means they are less likely to develop complications from diabetes, such as heart disease, foot and eye problems.”

The findings of the inpatient audit from 2010 showed that 82% of our patients said they were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with their care.

Anna Morton, Director of NHS Diabetes said the work at The Dudley Group showed how organisations can use the findings from the Diabetes Inpatient Audit as a catalyst for improvements.

“The diabetes team at Dudley made a plan and clearly demonstrated how it would make things better for patients. It’s a great example for other organisations wanting to change the way they work too.”

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. NHS Diabetes is a national organisation working to improve the services and quality of care received by people with diabetes. Our aim is simple but crucial: to embed safe, evidence-based examples of ‘what works’ leading to better outcomes for patients. Further information about our work is available at www.diabetes.nhs.uk.
2. For media enquiries contact Oliver Jelly on 07766 990848, email oliver.jelly@diabetes.nhs.uk
3. More information about the work of the diabetes team at The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust can be found on the NHS Diabetes website at http://www.diabetes.nhs.uk/publications_and_resources/case_studies/evaluation_case_studies/
4. More information about the National Diabetes Inpatient Audit can be found at http://www.diabetes.nhs.uk/our_work_areas/inpatient_care/inpatient_audit_2010/

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