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Patient Safety Huddle Boards make their mark at Russells Hall Hospital

The Dudley Group has installed brand new quality and safety 'huddle' boards on all wards at Russells Hall Hospital displaying information for patients such as the number of nurses on duty and the number of falls and infections on the ward.

The five foot by four foot wipe-clean magnetic boards have been installed in 27 areas at the hospital to show patients how they are cared for.

The new 'The Way We Care' boards are updated daily and give information on areas such as how many nursing and support staff are on duty on the ward, Friends and Family Test results, patient survey results, monthly compliments and complaints numbers, as well as the number of days the ward has been free from MRSA, C. Difficile, avoidable falls and pressure ulcers.

They also display general information such as visiting times and ward routines, and give the names of the matron, lead nurse and shift lead should patients have any queries or concerns about their care.

Denise McMahon, Director of Nursing at The Dudley Group, said, "We think our huddle boards are a wonderful addition to our inpatient areas and help to further reinforce the Trust's commitment to being open and transparent about the care we provide to our patients.

"The boards act as a fantastic communication tool and really help to reassure our patients that we are constantly striving to give them the best possible patient experience.

"We hope that by openly publishing information about our quality indicators we can provide further reassurance to relatives that the doctors, nurses and support staff looking after their loved ones take patient safety and care seriously.

"The boards also act as a base camp for twice daily 'handover huddles' where staff hold a short meeting at the start of their shift to discuss patients, important news, Trust-wide issues, safety alerts and feedback from patients and visitors.

"Having a go-to place for the ward's important information means that all our staff, from clinical support workers to consultants, are fully aware of how the ward is performing and any important issues can be communicated quickly and easily."

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