

7<sup>th</sup> December 2010

### **Trust swapping from flowers to pot plants**

Visitors to Russells Hall Hospital are being asked to bring in pot plants instead of traditional bouquets of flowers to brighten up patients' besides.

From Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011, the Dudley Group of Hospitals is holding a month-long trial to protect valuable electrical equipment and help nurses spend more time with patients.

The Trust is making the move to pot plants:

- To protect computerised equipment from water spills
- To create more space at bedside for water jugs/personal belongings
- As they are at less risk of being knocked over
- Because dirty flower water can block/contaminate patient sinks
- Because dirty flower water smells and grows bugs

Visitors will still be allowed to bring in small floral arrangements to the Maternity Unit providing they are in their own water.

If visitors bring in flowers and do not want to take them home, they will be able to leave them at Main Reception. The flowers will then be given to the Prayer Centre who will find them a home.

Director of Nursing Denise McMahon said moving from flowers to pot plants would be of benefit to everyone.

"Tending to vases of flowers takes up valuable nursing time, time which could be better spent looking after patients," she said.

"Not only are pot plants better than traditional bouquets in ward environments, they last longer too.

"There is less risk of them being knocked over and there is no dirty flower water which can block and contaminate sinks and which is known to harbour bugs.

"We understand that visitors like to bring flowers into hospital for their relatives and friends and we hope everyone will understand why we have made this decision."

