

News Release

19 April 2011

Coeliac awareness campaign

Dietitians at Dorset County Hospital will be experiencing first hand what life is like with coeliac disease as part of an awareness campaign.

Coeliac disease (pronounced see-liac) is not an allergy or simple food intolerance. It is an autoimmune disease, where the body's immune system attacks its own tissues.

In people with coeliac disease this immune reaction is triggered by gluten, a collective name for a type of protein found in the cereals wheat, rye and barley. A few people are also sensitive to oats.

The dietitians will be sticking to a gluten free diet from 16 to 22 May for Coeliac Awareness Week, as well as staging a special event in the hospital's restaurant on Tuesday 17 May.

From 10am to 2.30pm on the day, dietitians and members of the Dorchester Coeliac Support Group will be on hand to offer advice and answer any questions people may have.

Local suppliers of gluten free products have kindly donated free samples for people to try.

The hospital's catering team are also supporting the event by putting on an entirely gluten free menu for the day, and a gluten free dish each day of the awareness week.

There will be a raffle to win a hamper full of gluten free goodies and the dietitians will also be busy baking gluten free cakes and pastries to sell. All the money raised will go to the local support group and the hospital's Digital Mammography Appeal.

For more information about Coeliac Disease visit www.coeliac.org.uk

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For more information/interviews please contact the Communications Dept - Susie Palmer on 01305 254683, susie.palmer@dchft.nhs.uk (Mon to Wed) or Stevie Pattison-Dick on 01305 254645, stevie.pattison-dick@dchft.nhs.uk (Thurs and Fri).