



The monthly hospital update for general practitioners

GP Bulletin



Merry Christmas and very best wishes for the year ahead from everyone at Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Top rated maternity unit

Dorset County Hospital has been rated by mothers as the best hospital in the country for some of its maternity services.

Over 25,000 new mums across 142 hospitals in England were surveyed in February 2010 by the Care Quality Commission.

In Dorset 70% of the mums surveyed were aged between 19 and 35 years and for 53% of women, the survey followed the birth of their first child.

Jean O'Callaghan, Chief Executive of the Hospital said: "This is great news. To be the highest rated hospital by new mums for so many of our maternity services is a great achievement.

"We know that DCH's maternity services are popular with local families and it is clear that the unit and the care received is rated highly by the women we serve, but it is always good for the staff to have their work recognised publicly."

Dorset County Hospital was in the top 20% of all Trusts on 17 of the 19 benchmarks measures by the CQC and in three, DCH was rated the **best in the country**. These were

- Overall how did you rate your care in labour?
- After the birth were you treated with kindness and respect?
- Did the midwives and other carers give you active support and encouragement with feeding?

In the survey:

97% of women rated their antenatal care as good, very good or excellent.

100% of women said their care was good, very good or excellent.

95% of women said their postnatal care was good very good or excellent.

GUM patient survey

Patients have praised the services offered by the Department of Genitourinary Medicine in the latest patient survey.

The survey results demonstrate an extremely high level of patient satisfaction with the GUM service and its staff. 99% of respondents said they were very satisfied with their overall care and for many other questions surrounding areas such as respect, privacy and information there was 100% satisfaction rates.

Patient comments included:

“I cannot fault the people or service I have received at the Weymouth clinic.”

“I have always been given the right advice, the right treatment and treated with respect and listened to.”

“Thank you for your professionalism, thorough work and making me feel very comfortable.”

“Great service – very caring and professional etiquette. Made me feel at ease and comfortable about treatment.”

Paediatric Surgery Clinics

Following the retirement of Mr Chris Gosling the Paediatric Surgical Service will be taken over by Mr Mark Watson. He will see the same range of cases as Mr Gosling did, and can provide the surgery for those cases here in DCH (circumcision, herniotomy, orchidopexy etc). The paediatric surgeons from Southampton will continue to visit as before for specialist problems. Together they aim to provide as much paediatric surgery locally as possible. Outpatient appointments are available on Choose and Book. Appointments are available in Dorchester, Bridport and Lyme Regis.

Skin lesions

Mr Watson will coordinate the General Surgery skin lesion excision workload. Simple excisions can be referred to dermatology or for direct access excision as before. Lesions referred for removal will be triaged by Mr Watson to a suitable environment, and we anticipate that we will be able to remove many lesions in outpatients. For patients not suitable for direct access a letter referral can be made - in due course we aim to have a surgical skin lesion clinic in DCH which will be a combination of ‘see and treat’ and booking patients for larger excisions (flaps and grafts). This will be available on Choose and Book.

Colorectal referrals

There is no change to colorectal referrals. The telephone clinic is working well and current waits are 1-2 weeks. Mr Watson will continue to provide colorectal surgery as before.

For more information you can contact Mr Watson on mark.watson@dchft.nhs.uk or call his secretary Kim Wellman on 01305 255934. Mr Watson is happy to visit any GP practice to give talks.

ICE electronic requesting for neurophysiology

EEG, ambulatory EEG, nerve conduction and EMG

All Neurophysiology can now be requested via ICE, from the main DCH intranet homepage. A short IT session is required to obtain an ICE log-on if you do not yet have one. Contact ICT for training courses.

From 1 January 2011 paper requests in the old format will no longer be accepted. Incomplete written requests will be returned.

If you cannot access the ICE system please contact the department to discuss alternative arrangements.

Requesting Outpatient Neurophysiology: ICE requests can usually be processed in one working day. So, if a request is submitted at consultation and the patient has read the test information leaflet printed from ICE, they can telephone us 24 hours later to arrange an appointment time. If we do not hear from an outpatient after 3 working days an appointment is sent by post.

Requesting Inpatient Neurophysiology: Please telephone Neurophysiology on 01305 255255 to confirm that each ICE inpatient request you have submitted has been received. Neurophysiology will then telephone the patient's ward and arrange a date and time for the appointment.

Patient Information leaflets available from ICE and the intranet

Clinicians are recommended to give an information leaflet to each Neurophysiology patient to begin the consent pathway. While completing the ICE request, a printable test-specific leaflet will be found near the beginning of the on-line form. It contains a section the patient should complete and bring to their appointment, along with Neurophysiology contact details, test description and important consent information with advice on pre-test preparation.

Click [here](#) to access the full range of new Neurophysiology Information Leaflets.

Allison Tate (Neurophysiology Dept Manager)
Clinical Neurophysiology 01305 255255
neurophysiology@dchft.nhs.uk

Antibiotic auditing



Prescribing the correct antibiotic is important for two reasons: firstly so that infection is dealt with quickly and effectively; secondly so that there are minimal side effects. Certain 'high risk' antibiotics disrupt the guts natural flora and leave patients susceptible to the development of *Clostridium difficile* (C diff) diarrhoea.

Robin Parsons, Antibiotic Pharmacist (pictured) and Dr Sanja Clements, Consultant Microbiologist, have introduced an audit programme of antibiotic

prescribing to ensure that the most appropriate antibiotics are being prescribed, at the correct dosage, by the correct route, for the correct amount of time. In particular they also wanted to check that 'high risk' antibiotics are only prescribed when absolutely necessary.

An audit was carried out on Barnes Ward in June 2010. All antibiotics were prescribed at the correct dosage and delivered via the correct route. There were only five prescriptions which did not pass all of the audit criteria. In three the date to stop or review the drug had not been correctly recorded, in one the antibiotic chosen to treat a urinary tract infection was not one recommended by the guidelines, and one antibiotic had not been changed after advice from the microbiology team. These highlighted issues were subsequently addressed by the audit team and the prescribing Doctors. Not only does the audit give everyone a chance to reflect on how they prescribe antibiotics to ensure that their patient receives the most effective and safest care, but it also helps to address the wider problem of emerging antibiotic resistance.

Antibiotic resistance is a growing problem in the UK and the misuse of antibiotics in hospitals is one of the main factors driving this emerging resistance. Examples of misuse include using antibiotics when not necessary, when broad spectrum antibiotics are used indiscriminately or when narrow spectrum antibiotics are used incorrectly, when the duration of treatment is too long or too short, or when antibiotic treatment is not streamlined according to microbiology results.

Robin Parsons and Dr Sanja Clements have created and developed an electronic audit tool which makes collecting and analysing the information easier. This means that the many wards at Dorset County Hospital have already benefitted from this audit programme and will continue to benefit in future.

Dorset County Hospital has extensive antibiotic guidelines which have been developed in line with Department of Health guidance on reducing healthcare associated infections like *C. difficile*. The Trust guidelines recommend effective treatment for a wide variety of infections whilst minimising the overuse of 'high risk' antibiotics.

Major success in research trial

Many of the research projects open at DCH deliver benefits for our patients and we have recently received news of a major success.

Over 40 DCH patients were recruited to the SHARP trial; a double blind placebo-controlled trial which looked at the value of using drugs to lower cholesterol in patients with Chronic Kidney Disease.

This is a common disease which affects about 1 in 10 people worldwide. Patients with this condition have a high risk of developing heart disease or experiencing a stroke. The SHARP trial has shown that a quarter of all heart attacks, strokes and operations to open blocked arteries could be avoided in this patient population if the drugs ezetimibe and simvastatin are used to lower blood cholesterol levels.

The SHARP trial is only one of 87 research projects open to patients at our Trust. The number of trials open, and the numbers of patients we recruit to those trials, is increasingly rapidly. Opportunities to participate in clinical research exist in all areas of patient care.

Please call the Research Department on 01305 255298 or 255253 if you want to offer your patients the option of entering a research project.

Dr Christopher Miller
Research & Development
01305 255298
Christopher.miller@dchft.nhs.uk

GP Education

For information about forthcoming lectures you can visit the GP education website at http://www.dorsetgpcentre.com/dorset_gps/courses_and_events/dorchester_gp_education or contact Judy Crabb in the DCH Education Centre on 01305 255258 or judy.crabb@dchft.nhs.uk

For more information about Dorset County Hospital you can visit the GP section of our website here <http://www.dchft.nhs.uk/gp/gpindex.html>

If there is anything else you would like to see on our website, or in this newsletter, please contact Communications Manager Susie Palmer on susie.palmer@dchft.nhs.uk or 01305 254683
