

# News Release

**12 October 2017**

## **Hospital launches new night time service**

Dorset County Hospital has launched a new service to maximise patient safety at night.

The Critical Care Outreach Team have broadened the remit of their service to offer 24 hour cover throughout the hospital. The new service is called Hospital at Night.

The new initiative is part of the on-going quality improvement plan that supports achieving the hospital's mission of providing outstanding care for people in ways which matter to them.

During the day the outreach team help to manage patients across the hospital whose conditions are worsening, and at night this role is expanded to provide a range of services including clerking, prescribing and assessments alongside their medical colleagues. There is now one central bleep number for all requests from wards overnight. The Hospital at Night team's Advanced Nurse Practitioners then triage the requests to ensure a rapid response and an equitable workload for overnight staff.

The Trust were supported by funding from Health Education England, which enabled the hospital to train a team of Advance Nurse Practitioners (ANPs). Six ANPs were trained and the team now comprises eight Advanced Nurse Practitioners and is led by Sharon Mooney, Intensive Care Consultant Nurse.

To support safe patient care the outreach service now provides one ANP during the day and two overnight. Each evening a Hospital at Night multi-professional handover meeting is held; attended by representatives from all areas, along with the ANPs, the medical registrar and the Clinical Site Manager – ensuring good communication across the hospital's teams. The Hospital at Night team members also attend the handover meetings for the surgical and medical teams each morning, to inform the day staff of what has happened in the hospital overnight.

Sharon Mooney, Intensive Care Consultant Nurse said: "The Hospital at Night service is a different way of working; it is a team approach to support staff keeping patients safe at night. Since launching the service, it has been well received by clinicians and ward staff across the hospital. It has enabled the Trust to adjust foundation level doctors' (F1s) rotas, which is beneficial for their training, and has enabled members of our nursing team to increase their skill sets. Most importantly it provides a robust system for ensuring the highest levels of care and safety for our patients at night."

**ENDS**

**PHOTO: Sharon Mooney, Intensive Care Consultant Nurse with Bev Martin, Donna Wilson, Jenny Fowler and Seri Barnes, Advanced Nurse Practitioners from the Hospital at Night team.**

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