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Sheffield Teaching Hospitals **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

Good Health

The newsletter for members of
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



Making it Better
for patients, staff
and the NHS

Building services fit for the future

Dear member,



Welcome to the Spring Good Health members magazine. In this edition we are showcasing some of the amazing developments and innovations which have come about as a direct result of ideas from members of our staff.

From ground breaking lung surgery to a new urology assessment unit, the following pages demonstrate the power of listening and empowering the people who deliver care and services to make change where they can see it will make a real difference to our patients, each other or the wider NHS. We have called this initiative 'Making it Better' and I am delighted to say we already have hundreds of change projects taking place across our hospitals and community services.

It was lovely to see so many members at our recent Research event and I hoped those of you who came along enjoyed the presentations and stalls. Look out for details of the next Members event coming soon.

And finally we are looking for new Governors and you can find details of the forthcoming elections on page 4. If you would like to find out more about becoming a Governor we would love to discuss it further with you. Please contact: Jane Pellegrina for more information on jane.pellegrina@sth.nhs.uk or 0114 271 4322.

Tony Pedder, Chairman

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Help our patients by becoming a volunteer

Support your local hospitals

As a member you can play a role in the Trust and get more involved in your local hospitals.

To become a **public member**, you must live in Sheffield.

To become a **patient member** you must have been a patient in the last five years.

Trust members can:

- participate in the election of Governors
- have the opportunity to stand for election to the Council of Governors
- provide feedback and opinion about services and possible developments
- receive information about the Trust on a regular basis
- attend special functions which may include open days, tours and healthcare seminars

Members will not receive any preferential access to actual health services, as this would be contrary to the principles of the NHS.



Please register me as a member of the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

IT'S FREE!

Title	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr	<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs	<input type="checkbox"/> Ms	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr	<input type="checkbox"/> Other...	<input type="text"/>
Family Name	<input type="text"/>					
First Name	<input type="text"/>					
Address	<input type="text"/>					
Postcode	<input type="text"/>			Telephone	<input type="text"/>	
Email	<input type="text"/>					
Date of Birth	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	/	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
I would describe my ethnic background as:						
<input type="checkbox"/> White British	<input type="checkbox"/> White Other (non British)		<input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British			
<input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed / Multi heritage		<input type="checkbox"/> Other Not stated			
I would like to register my potential interest in standing for election as a Governor:						
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No					
I declare that I am eligible and would like to become a member:						
<input type="checkbox"/> Public member	<input type="checkbox"/> Patient member					
Signed	<input type="text"/>					

New lung surgery technique cuts patient recovery times



Nick Ross, 70, is one of many patients in the Trust to benefit from a new, minimally invasive technique which is enabling patients to recover faster and go home sooner after lung surgery. The technique, known as a single port VATS, has allowed patients who have undergone major surgery to mobilise within two hours and return home after just four days in hospital.

Rather than open surgery or two or three separate incisions, it requires just one 4cm incision for surgical instruments and a camera to be inserted. Video monitoring is then used to carry out the operation.

Using the technique, a lung cancer patient could have a third or half of a lung removed and return home from hospital after four days. Using traditional surgery, this would have been eight days. The whole thoracic surgery unit is now using the technique and about 70% of operations are carried out this way, compared to just 18% in 2012.

Mr Ross, a retired Commercial Director, said: 'I've received an amazing turnaround, this is very important because I believe the recovery process is greatly enhanced by being able to go home as quickly as possible after treatment. From being able to have the operation to be medically fit to go home so soon is just brilliant and greatly appreciated by both myself and my family.'

Consultant Thoracic Surgeon Laura Socci said: 'It makes it less much less invasive and painful for the patient and recovery is faster. Patients are happy with the outcome, because it has good results, a smaller scar and they can get back to a normal life more quickly. As a surgeon I find it straightforward to do, and it saves time and resources for the department as well.'

Mr Ross added: 'I cannot praise the staff enough. They have been caring, considerate and understanding throughout my stay.'

An Enhanced Recovery After Surgery Programme (ERAS) is also running in parallel, offering support to patients with smoking cessation and pulmonary rehabilitation to reduce readmissions.



Photo: Consultant surgeon Laura Socci, patient Nick Ross and Matron Jane Coates

Staff recommend Trust as a place to work or receive care

The majority of our staff (81% compared to the national average of 68%) would be happy recommending the Trust to a friend or family member as a place to be treated.

More staff than the national average would also recommend the Trust as a place to work according to the latest NHS staff survey published in March.

Most importantly the majority of staff said they were satisfied with the quality of work and patient care they delivered and more staff felt satisfied with the resources and support they have than the average.

Staff felt that the Trust had shown improvements in a number of areas including listening to patients and making changes and improvements based on their feedback.

Researchers and patients showcase medical advances of the future

Researchers from the Trust recently showcased how medical research makes a difference to NHS patients' lives at a special event held at the Northern General Hospital. The 'Making a Difference for Patients' event provided members of the public, NHS staff and patients with an opportunity to find out more about the wide ranging research that takes place at the Trust.

Innovations in heart disease, cancer trials, the Yorkshire and Humber NHS Genomic Medicine Centre's '100,000 Genomes Project' and advances in the treatment, diagnosis and prevention of devastatingly progressive illnesses such as dementia, Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease and stroke were showcased at the event.

Professor Simon Heller, Director of Research and Development, said: 'At this event members of the public, NHS staff

and patients found out more about medical research, what it is, its impact on clinical care, and how volunteers play a key role in helping test medical advances that may one day become established treatments of the future.'

To find out more about clinical research opportunities being offered at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust email getinvolved@sth.nhs.uk or contact **0114 226 5935**.



Deaf patients to benefit from video-interpreting service

A remote British Sign Language (BSL) interpreting service that will be available to deaf patients whenever they need it is being introduced at the Trust.

We will soon be the first in the country to use the service on a routine basis, in the same way that telephone interpreting is used for spoken languages.

The service is initially being trialled within the Hearing Services Department, and feedback so far has been overwhelmingly positive. Over the coming months, the service will be rolled out across the Trust so that all of our patients who use BSL can benefit from it.

The service, provided by SignLive, works through a web browser on a computer or a downloaded app on a smart device and allows a direct connection to a qualified BSL interpreter.

It is readily available as and when it is needed, with connection to an interpreter taking around only 40 seconds. This means that deaf patients will have speedy access to a signer to help them communicate with hospital staff. It also eliminates the need to book interpreters in advance and means that patient appointments will not have to be cancelled where a face-to-face interpreter isn't available.

move
more

Get fit for the future

You can help to keep yourself 'fit for the future' whether it's exercising more, quitting smoking or eating more fruit and vegetables. Sheffield Teaching Hospitals is part of the Move More initiative in the city, which can help to provide ideas and motivation for keeping fit.

Visit www.movemoresheffield.com for fitness advice and activity information to help keep you moving. You can also download the Move More app to enable you to keep track of your activity.

Notice of Elections

The Trust gives notice that it will hold Elections to the Council of Governors from 26 May to 16 June 2017. Elections will be held for the following positions:

Public Constituency Sheffield North - 2 vacancies

Public Constituency Sheffield South West - 1 vacancy

Public Constituency Sheffield West - 1 vacancy

Public Constituency Outside Sheffield - 1 vacancy

Patient Constituency - 2 vacancies

Staff Ancillary, Works and Maintenance - 1 vacancy

Staff Allied Health Professionals, Scientists and Technicians - 1 vacancy

Nomination packs

Nomination packs with information about how to stand for Election will be available from 20 April 2017 from the Foundation Trust Office at the address below. Members wishing to stand for Election will be required to attend a training session on the afternoon of 13 April 2017 prior to submission of their nomination form. Please call the Foundation Trust Office (below) for details of the training session and for a nomination pack.

Foundation Trust Office
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Northern General Hospital
Herries Road
Sheffield S5 7AU

Tel: 0114 271 4322

Email: jane.pellegrina@sth.nhs.uk

All nomination papers must be received by the Trust's Returning Officer, of Electoral Reform Services, at the address below by 12 noon on 8 May 2017. Faxed or emailed nominations will not be accepted.

Electoral Reform Services Limited
The Election Centre
33 Clarendon Road
London N8 0NW

Tel: 0208 889 9203

Elections

Ballot papers will be distributed to qualifying Members on 26 May 2017. Completed ballot papers must be received by the Independent Scrutineer, Electoral Reform Services Limited by 12 noon on 16 June 2017.

The results of the Election will be announced on 19 June 2017.



Could you be a voice for patients and members of the public?

It's election time at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals and the Trust is looking for volunteers to become Foundation Trust Governors. Could one of them be you?

Governors act as a link between Foundation Trust Members and the Board of Directors and represent the views of patients and the community the Trust serves. Becoming a Governor is an opportunity to represent the needs and views of patients and members of the community by having an active say in how our services are developed and our organisation is managed.

What are the responsibilities of the Council of Governors?

- to hold the Non-Executive Directors, individually and collectively, to account for the performance of the Board of Directors
- to represent the interests of the Members of the Trust and the interests of the public
- to discuss strategic plans and help the Trust plan for the future
- to share information about key decisions with Trust Members
- to act as a link between the Board of Directors and Members
- to appoint the Chairman and Non-Executive Directors
- to set the remuneration of the Chairman and Non-Executive Directors

Although no particular skills or experience are required an effective Council of Governors is important so Governors need to be able to put the needs of the community above personal preference, actively listen and value the contributions of different people, be able to ask questions in a constructive, not confrontational, manner and be enthusiastic and want to work as part of a team.

How will the Elections be run?

The Trust has appointed Electoral Reform Services to run the Election. As well as making sure that a robust process is followed, it also means that the Election is totally independent. Information about the Election will be available on the Trust website.

Will support be available?

Governors can expect to receive training to enable them to undertake this important role and will be expected to attend induction sessions, ongoing training and development events.

How much time does it take to be a Governor?

As a minimum Governors need to attend four public Council of Governors Meetings, four informal Governors' Forum Meetings and the Annual Members' Meeting. All meetings are held at our Hospitals. Time will also be required to read papers provided for each meeting. You will be offered other opportunities to be involved in a wide variety of areas of the Hospitals.

Are Governors paid?

This is a voluntary role so you would not be paid although reasonable agreed expenses are reimbursed by the Trust in accordance with Trust policy.

How long would my appointment last?

Governors are elected for a three year term of office and are eligible to stand again for two further three year terms.

Why become a Governor?

We are four of the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Governors who must retire at the end of June when our final term of office as Governors comes to an end.



Left to right: Governors George Clark, Jo Bishop, Graham Thompson and John Warner

The past nine years have flown by. As Governors we have found it satisfying and rewarding to contribute to the smooth running of our hospitals in Sheffield. The NHS has been there for us when we needed it, and being Governors has given us an opportunity to give something back.

We have worked through a period of enormous change in the NHS and seen first-hand how changes have affected the Trust. We have experienced the hard work everyone has put in to enable Sheffield Teaching Hospitals to maintain its position as one of the highest performing trusts in the country.

As Governors we have been privileged to have unfettered access to every part of the Trust and to all staff from the most senior to the newest recruits. We have felt welcomed and valued in the varied roles we have undertaken and enjoyed the friendship of a group of like-minded people from very disparate backgrounds. Although we are all retired from careers we think it would be good to see some younger people taking on the roles of Governors.

Whilst there has never been any pressure on us to contribute more than we are comfortable with, it is true that the more you put in the more you get out of the experience. We have all contributed at some level across a range of areas in much of the Trust from our own Council of Governors meetings, undertaking Patient-led Assessments of the Care Environment, briefings with the Director of Finance and visits to clinical areas, estates and maintenance and catering to name but a few. We are all sorry that our time as Governors is coming to a close and we hope that we might encourage others to step up and take our place.

Don't delay - if you are interested in becoming a Governor or would like to find out more please call Jane Pellegrina in the Foundation Trust Office on **0114 271 4322**, email jane.pellegrina@sth.nhs.uk or write to Foundation Trust Office, Northern General Hospital, Herries Road, Sheffield S5 7AU



New GP centre offers treatment for minor illnesses

A new out-of-hours GP centre has opened at the Northern General Hospital, offering an alternative to A&E for patients requiring treatment for minor or less urgent illnesses.

The new centre is located below the helipad and adjacent to A&E at the Northern General Hospital. Dr Iolanthe Fowler, Clinical Director of Integrated Community Care at the Trust said: 'If your illness is less urgent then you could be seen more quickly by a doctor in the new GP centre rather than waiting in A&E which should only be used in very serious or life threatening situations.'

The centre is open from 6pm to 8am on weekdays and 24 hours over weekends and Bank Holidays. If you think you need a GP during these times simply ring the NHS 111 service by dialling 111, and they will direct you to the most appropriate service, which could be an appointment at the new centre.

The GP centre complements the Minor Injuries Unit, located at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, which is open 8am to 8pm every day and can provide treatment for minor injuries such as sprains, wounds and scalds.

There is also a Walk-in Centre on Broad Lane in the city centre where advice and treatment can be accessed for minor illnesses. This is open from 8am to 10pm every day. There is no appointment necessary for the Walk-in Centre.

New state of the art radiotherapy machine to support world class treatment for cancer patients

Patients at Weston Park Cancer Centre are set to benefit from a third new state-of-the-art radiotherapy machine (linac).

The cutting edge machine comes hot on the heels of two other radiotherapy machines and two CT scanners which were installed at Weston Park last year.

The new £1.9m radiotherapy machine targets tumours quickly, with pinpoint precision and accuracy.

The new machine, which will replace an older version, means Weston Park Hospital will have seven linacs which can all deliver some of the world's most advanced radiotherapy treatments.

Dr Stephen Tozer-Loft, Head of Radiotherapy Physics, said: 'Radiotherapy has developed into an extremely technologically advanced, cost-effective and safe way of treating cancer and so this further investment in the latest technology is great news for our patients.'



Sheffield at the forefront of radiotherapy treatment: from the 1940s to present day

In 1949 Sheffield became the first place in the country to pioneer the van de Graff generator to treat cancer by beaming radiation on to the tumour.

The £2 million generator was housed at the David Morrison Research Department, which opened in 1949. Twenty years later the centre became part of Weston Park Hospital

The van de Graff generator was the forerunner to the modern linear accelerator, or linac, machine used for radiotherapy now. Linacs can target cancer to the millimetre while avoiding surrounding healthy tissue. Weston Park Hospital now has seven linac machines, which you can read about on page 7.



Weston Park develops vision for the future

Over recent months a new strategy has been developed for Weston Park to help confirm its place as one of the leading cancer centres in the UK. To achieve the exciting new vision of how cancer care, research and support will be provided, a transformation programme is underway which will include more estates developments, such as the refurbishment of Ward 2 that has already taken place, additional recruitment, as well as looking at new ways to improve our services and develop our staff, extending the use of technologies. Patients and staff can get involved in shaping some of these exciting changes by visiting the 'Big Change Room' in the Small Committee Room at Weston Park Floor 1, every Wednesday between 12-2pm to drop in and see the latest updates on the programme and leave your feedback in the suggestions box.



Weston Park Cancer Centre
excellence in cancer care and research



Celebrating cancer care in Sheffield

Weston Park Hospital has been highly praised in the National Cancer Patient Experience Survey.



The survey highlighted that patients felt their care was excellent and that they were well-informed and consulted about their care and treatment options. One patient who agreed with the findings is Elaine Williams, aged 58. She said: 'I've found the care to be really good, the staff are very caring and ensure you always feel fully informed about your treatments. I was given a lot of useful information both in writing and face to face.'

Yorkshire Cancer Research invests £4.5m to improve cancer treatment in Sheffield

Cancer patients in Sheffield are set to benefit from the latest innovations in treatment and care due to a multi-million pound research programme from Yorkshire Cancer Research.

The £4.5m investment will fund the appointment of ten of the UK's most promising researchers and cancer specialists, whose expertise will further reinforce Sheffield as one of the best centres in the country for patient-focused cancer research. The appointments will be made over the next three years and each project will run for five years.

'This major investment by Yorkshire Cancer Research means that Sheffield can continue to pioneer new treatments to give cancer patients a brighter future,' said Professor Coleman. Dr Trish Fisher, Clinical Director at Weston Park Cancer Centre, said: 'The ability to offer many of our patients the chance to be part of cutting edge clinical trials, that can not only improve their cancer outcomes, but also pave the way for advancements in cancer treatments, is one of the reasons that Weston Park is a leading UK cancer centre.'



Specialist service to share expertise in rare pregnancy complication with hospitals across Europe

A specialist service in Sheffield which treats women from across the north of England who have suffered a rare pregnancy complication has been approved as part of a new Europe-wide reference network.

The Gestational Trophoblastic Service at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals is now part of the European Reference Network in Rare Adult Cancers (EURACAN), and will share expertise and best practice with other European centres to help improve treatment across the continent.

Gestational Trophoblastic Disease (GTD) is a complication of a molar pregnancy, which occurs in about one in 750 pregnancies. In molar pregnancies the foetus and placenta do not develop properly due to an imbalance of male and female genes, and abnormal issue forms. In some cases this can become malignant and require chemotherapy treatment.

The UK has the best survival rates in the world for GTD, and Sheffield is one of three specialist centres in the country for treating it.

John Tidy, Director of the Sheffield Trophoblastic Disease Centre and Professor of Gynaecological Oncology, said:

‘Sheffield has been at the forefront of managing GTD for 40 years, and over that time we have developed great expertise.

‘What we are trying to do now through the network is replicate that system so that all women in Europe can benefit from the best treatment practices.’

Stephanie Theobald, 35, of Manchester, was referred to Sheffield after she developed GTD following a molar pregnancy. She underwent chemotherapy after her blood tests showed the abnormal cells were spreading, and is now in remission. She said:

‘I had never heard of a molar pregnancy, nor knew that it could lead to cancer. But the specialist nurse at Sheffield explained everything to me in a way I could understand, and that really helped. They were fantastic and offered brilliant support. I could always pick up the phone for advice.

‘I felt the treatment in Sheffield gave me the best chance of recovery, and I think it is a great idea to have a network that shares that expertise. People with the same disease should be able to get the same quality of treatment.’



Patient, Stephanie Theobald



New outpatient service launched for urology patients in Sheffield

A new outpatient service which will provide a better experience for patients with urological emergencies has been officially opened at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital.

The Urology Assessment Unit, which provides care to patients referred with urgent needs, has been relocated to a newly refurbished outpatient department to provide an enhanced service for patients in a more appropriate setting.

The concept for the new unit, which was previously based on an inpatient ward, was developed following a successful trial of relocating the service to an outpatient area.

The trial highlighted a number of benefits, including an improved environment for patients, reduced length of stay, faster access to necessary tests and treatment, decreased admissions, and the prevention of further unnecessary hospital visits.

Charlotte Naylor, Senior Sister, said: ‘The Urology Assessment Unit will have such a positive impact on patient care, as many patients will now get a ‘one stop shop’ when attending, avoiding unnecessary admissions and further appointments.’

The new unit was officially opened by the Trust Chairman, Tony Pedder. He said: ‘This development is a fantastic example of how we can provide patients with a really high quality outpatient experience.’

Pioneering neo-natal MRI scanner improves treatment for premature babies

A prototype 'miniature' MRI scanner for new born babies is one of only two in the world, and is part of a two-year research project into the feasibility and benefits of scanning babies in the neonatal unit. It is hoped the scanner could improve the diagnosis and treatment of brain damage in premature babies.

Paul Griffiths, Professor of Radiology at the University of Sheffield and Honorary Consultant at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals and Martyn Paley, Professor of MR Physics at the University of Sheffield, have been working on the concept and design of the scanner for 12 years.

It is considerably smaller than a standard MRI scanner, meaning it can be situated within or close to the neonatal unit. This enables babies to be scanned on the unit rather than having to be transported to the main radiology department elsewhere in the hospital, or transferred to Sheffield Children's Hospital. Scans can be performed more quickly and reduces the risks and difficulties associated with moving and handling vulnerable new born babies, while providing more detailed clinical information than a bedside ultrasound scan.

Professor Griffiths says: 'Babies, particularly with brain problems, are unstable - they can stop breathing or their blood pressure can change in an unpredictable way. If that happens it is useful to have neonatal staff who are used to that situation in such close proximity, which will improve safety.'

'The MR images provide a more detailed image and can help provide a more accurate diagnosis. The motivation to keep going with this project is a belief that at the end we will have something that is better for babies with these types of brain problems.'

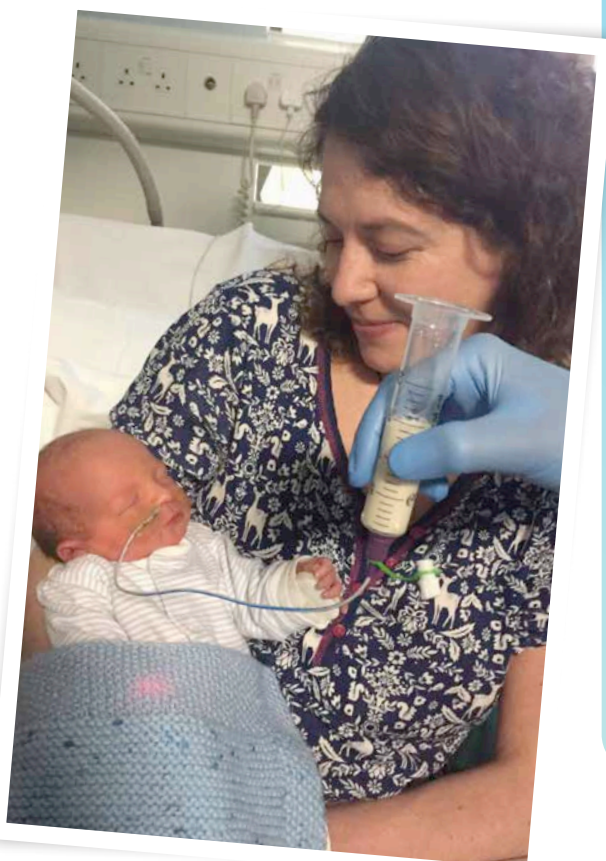
Susie Thoms' son Toby was scanned as part of the research study after being born at 34 weeks (six weeks premature)

by caesarean section and spending a week in neonatal intensive care.

Susie, of Sheffield, said: 'Not having to leave the department was a massive advantage, because having to transfer elsewhere at what is already a difficult time, would be a lot of extra stress for Toby, myself and the teams involved.'

'You can get so much information from the MR images and see incredible detail. Toby coped with the scan really well and the care he received was absolutely brilliant on the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Special Care Baby Unit. I didn't have any hesitation about taking part as I think doing this research, and possibly benefitting other parents and babies in the future, is very important.'

'Toby is now back home, his feeding tube has recently been removed and he is doing really well.'



Free wireless access on the way for patients and staff

Feedback from both patients and staff across the Trust regularly asks for internet access for personal devices such as phones, tablets and laptops.

A project is now underway, led by the Trust's informatics team, to introduce this. It is hoped that within the next few months patients and staff will be able to get free access to Trust wi-fi on their own devices.

The wi-fi access will be for personal use only, such as internet browsing and checking emails.

Improvements for patients undergoing surgery



A programme which aims to reduce delays and cancellations and make general improvements for patients undergoing surgery was launched by the Trust last year. Some amazing outcomes have already been achieved by the 'Seamless Surgery' programme. Here are some examples:



Partnership with GPs helps reduce cancelled operations

The Ophthalmology department is working in partnership with GPs to ensure patients operations can go ahead as planned.

Previously the department had to make on-the-day cancellations as a result of patients coming in for surgery only for their blood pressure readings to be too high. As a result of this, a new policy was introduced whereby the patient's GP sends a blood pressure reading ahead of the surgery date. Since this change was introduced no surgery has been cancelled on-the-day due to high blood pressure.

Gemma Rhodes, the Service Manager for Ophthalmology, said: 'We were taking blood pressure on-the-day of surgery, and if it was a bit high it would lead to the patient's operation often having to be cancelled.'

'So we introduced this new policy where we get a reading from the GP ahead of the surgery date, and since implementing it we have had no cancellations as a result of high blood pressure.'

Orthopaedics halve number of cancelled operations

The Orthopaedics department are now using a new patient reminder service to help reduce the number of occasions when patients do not attend for their operation or they are not well enough to have surgery on the planned date.

The change has already resulted in a 50% drop in the number of cancelled operations.

Staff within the Orthopaedics team set up a working group to examine the reasons for cancellations and identified a number of common themes. These included:

- Patients not attending for their surgery
- Pre-operative instructions not being followed
- Operation no longer required (for example symptoms have changed)

After identifying these themes, a number of solutions were designed and implemented to try and address them. These included:

- Calling patients three or four days prior to the operation to ensure patients were aware of the arrangements, what they needed to do and any potential problems
- Using a pro-forma with specific questions to identify any problems which could lead to cancellation (for example changed/new symptoms, awareness of operation date, following medication instructions or anything else that could prevent attendance)

Jamie Templar, the Service Improvement Manager for Musculoskeletal (MSK) said he was pleased with the difference the new measures had made.

He said: 'Generally now cancellations are down to things we can't influence. When we do have cancellations we review them and look at the reasons to see if it highlights any problems that need solving.'

Gynaecology treats more patients quicker and saves money

Closer working between different staff groups has helped gynaecology to see more patients per day and improve cost effectiveness.

Teams are having weekly theatre production control meetings including not only clinicians but also managers and other staff groups, for example supplies, to ensure the most efficient and effective service possible.

These improvements have been achieved whilst also making efficiency savings of £66,000 by reducing the amount of unused medical supplies.



New electronic questionnaire saves more than 200 hospital visits per month

The use of Electronic Personal Assessment Questionnaires (ePAQ) by all surgical specialities is saving more than 200 return visits to hospital for patients every month.

ePAQ is used as a triage tool which aims to reduce the amount of time and number of visits patients have to make to clinic, while providing clinicians with the basic information they need about a patient's condition.

Patients complete an electronic questionnaire straight after being listed for surgery in the ePAQ suite at either the Royal Hallamshire or Northern General. They also have observations and swabs completed by a support worker and see a nurse with information about having surgery.

This can save the need for non-complex patients to return for a nurse practitioner appointment. All surgical specialities now use ePAQ for less medically complex patients.

In October 2016, 331 patients completed ePAQ and of these only 18 required a further nurse practitioner appointment. The process therefore saved 313 hours of nurse practitioner time in just one month.



Making it Better
For patients,
staff & the NHS

Dates for your diary **2017**

19 April, AM

Board of Directors,
Undergraduate Common
Room, Medical Education
Centre, Northern General
Hospital

10 May, 4.15pm

We are not immortal: A talk
for Members exploring death
and dying, Lecture Theatre
2, Medical Education Centre,
Northern General Hospital

17 May, AM

Board of Directors, Seminar
Room 1, R Floor, Royal
Hallamshire Hospital

21 June, AM

Board of Directors, Board
Room, Northern General
Hospital

27 June, 5pm

Council of Governors
Meeting, Undergraduate
Common Room, Medical
Education Centre, Northern
General Hospital

5 September, 5pm

Council of Governors
Meeting, Undergraduate
Common Room, Medical
Education Centre, Northern
General Hospital

6 December, 5pm

Council of Governors
Meeting, Undergraduate
Common Room, Medical
Education Centre, Northern
General Hospital

For more information about
any of these meetings please
contact [jane.pellegrina@sth.
nhs.uk](mailto:jane.pellegrina@sth.nhs.uk) or ring the Membership
Office on **0114 271 4322**.

RHH: Royal Hallamshire Hospital
NGH: Northern General Hospital

Help our patients by becoming a volunteer

The Trust currently has around 650 volunteers that fulfil a number of different roles on wards and departments. Among the opportunities on offer, we have welcomers on out-patients and main entrances, patient survey volunteers, coffee shop assistants, ward based roles and charity shop assistants.

We are keen to recruit volunteers from all age groups. Working closely with schools, colleges and other groups within the community across Sheffield, we encourage people from the age of 16 to volunteer with us.

We offer volunteers meaningful roles which can increase an individual's confidence and allow them to gain

valuable experience within a healthcare setting. Volunteers are able to enhance their employment opportunities and gain an insight into a profession should they be considering a career change.

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals is a place where people are positive about volunteering and where the volunteering experience creates a real impact on their lives as well as improving services for patients, families, visitors and staff at the Trust. Please visit www.sth.nhs.uk/work-for-us/volunteering/how-to-apply for information on how to apply, or contact the voluntary services team on **0114 271 5735 / 226 6045** or volunteer@sth.nhs.uk



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