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PRESS RELEASE

Nutrition Mission campaign goes from strength to strength

BLACKPOOL Hospitals' campaign to improve nutrition and hydration for inpatients is set to expand as part of a national patient safety week.

This week is the National Patient Safety Agency's (NPSA) Patient Safety First Week and Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is using its Nutrition Mission campaign to remind staff of the importance of nutrition and hydration for all patients.

The Nutrition Mission campaign launched in January 2011 to combat the malnourishment of inpatients across hospital wards. The campaign has since gone from strength to strength reducing food wastage by 50% and being commended by the Department of Health.

The campaign is now making further progress with dysphagia (which looks at patients' eating, drinking and ability to swallow) pathways and are trialling an all day breakfast on one of its wards to encourage patients to eat.

Nutrition Mission Project Team Lead, Angie McKeane, said: "We realised that the topic of poor nutrition was increasingly being discussed in hospitals around the country quite some time ago and decided that we had to take action to ensure our hospitals did not have the same issue.

"We had very few complaints but we wanted to make sure we provided the best service possible so we launched the Nutrition Mission to make sure our patients got their food and drinks. We have done numerous things during the campaign to look at why patients are not getting their food, be it they don't like the menu choices or are not hungry, and then set up detailed action plans to combat these barriers.

"It is vital to all our staff that we do everything we can for our patients to help their recovery and make them feel as comfortable as possible whilst they are in hospital. The Patient Safety First Nutrition and Hydration week is another opportunity to progress in our Nutrition Mission and keep the campaign fresh in people's minds. We'll be talking to staff all week about nutrition and hydration and why it is such a necessity for our patients."

Initiatives to ensure nutrition and hydration are at the forefront of nursing care in the Trust hospitals have included dedicated protected mealtimes, daily surveys on all wards to see why or how patients were not getting their food or

drink, extending the variety of meals on offer, increasing the availability of snacks and introducing action plans on the wards to combat malnutrition.



PICS: Director of Nursing and Quality Marie Thompson and Assistant Director of Nursing Angie McKeane.



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