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Media Release

It starts with me - safety matters at the RUH

Patient safety is going to be the talking point at the Royal United Hospital all next week as the hospital launches its annual Patient Safety Week: 'It starts with Me', from 12 – 16 September.

Ensuring the safety of everyone who comes into contact with health services is a year round priority at the RUH and this patient safety awareness event will demonstrate that patient safety is always at the top of their agenda.

Assistant Director of Nursing Jo Miller, who is leading the event, says: "This is an opportunity for visitors to see up close different aspects of patient care and to find out how we keep patients safe at the RUH. It's also an opportunity for staff to find out more about the good practice going on in all areas across the hospital.

"There'll be demonstrations and displays throughout the week. Visitors can see one of our most popular training tools – the Sim baby; a patient simulator (manikin) which closely mimics the responses of the human body, as it can breathe and cry and bleed! Staff will be on hand to demonstrate how he works and explain why the Sim baby plays such an important role in the training of our clinical staff in allowing them to rehearse how they respond to patient emergencies.

"We'll also be promoting 'think pink' a local initiative, which aims to build on the success we've already achieved in reducing the incidence of hospital acquired pressure ulcers. We use bright pink 'repositioning' charts, placed at the end of the bed, to identify patients at risk of developing a pressure ulcer or who already has a pressure ulcer. Then staff can see at a glance which patients need repositioning regularly. We also use pink 'sitting out' clock faces, which indicate the time a patient has been sitting out of bed. This is particularly helpful for our physiotherapy staff who can easily see how long a patient has been sitting and when they need to be helped back in to bed.

"These simple but effective ideas come from our staff who are solving problems for themselves and constantly thinking about how they can improve things for patients."

"This campaign is an opportunity to build upon the confidence that patients and public already has in our care."

Looking ahead to the campaign next week Francesca Thompson, Director of Nursing at the RUH says: "This week is once again our opportunity to demonstrate how much thought, skill and compassion that our staff put into patient care and safety. Across the hospital there are countless examples of where patients are feeling safe and well cared

for. As always there is also the welcome opportunity to learn from each other, the public and patients as to how we can do even better.”

National Patient Safety Week showcases aspects of the Regional Patient Safety Programme, which is aimed at making healthcare in the South West of England the safest in the country.

Ends