



UTOPIA **training saves lives**

The RUH uses leading edge technology to train clinical staff in how to recognise, assess and treat medical emergencies.

Using the medical simulation suite and high fidelity mannequins to mimic real life emergency scenarios, the Resuscitation and Clinical Skills team is running UTOPIA (Urgent Treatment of Patients in Adversity), a course which teaches skills in the assessment and treatment of deteriorating patients.

Medical Simulation Specialist Nurse Alan Winterman says: "Most medical emergencies in hospital are not sudden or unpredictable events. In the majority of cases, patients show signs of physiological deterioration, such as an increase in heart rate or a drop in blood pressure, over a few hours

before acute deterioration or cardiac arrest occurs. Training in early recognition and effective treatment of critically ill patients is essential to prevent cardiac arrests, death or unanticipated intensive care admissions.

"Most medical emergencies in hospital are not sudden or unpredictable events."

"We use the medical simulation suite to recreate emergency situations, such as cardiac arrest or bleeding after an

operation. Staff undergoing training monitor the 'patient' using the vital signs chart to record respiratory rate, blood pressure, temperature etc. and they'll calculate an early warning score from this information. Early warning scores help staff to identify a deteriorating condition so that they can seek help quickly. There's emphasis on the importance of effective communication too.

"I've been appointed specifically to promote this kind of education, which supports the Trust's commitment to further improve patient safety and quality of care at the RUH. We are one of the few hospitals in the UK to



have such a post and we are blazing a trail among district general hospitals in this respect.”

The UTOPIA course is designed for the whole range of medical staff - from doctors to physiotherapists - all of whom will be involved in the care of critically ill patients - so that they can train together using a common

approach. Last year over 300 medical staff attended the training.

Staff Nurse Ana Rodriguez says: “What I’ve learned will certainly help me improve my performance.” Radiographer Kay Llewellyn said: “The course is informative and well delivered. I learnt a lot and feel more confident with early assessment of deteriorating patients.”



Counter Fraud - **Bribery Bill 2009 Advice**

The Bribery Bill 2009, the result of a Law Commission review of bribery laws in the UK, is expected to become law later this year. The Bill aims to reform the criminal law to provide a comprehensive scheme of bribery offences that will enable courts to respond more effectively to bribery.

It is common practice for gifts or gratuities to be offered to NHS staff members and while these are, in the majority of cases, perfectly innocent gestures, great care should be exercised when accepting such gestures. The RUH is committed to the NHS Counter Fraud Strategy and appreciates the fine line between what can be seen as an inducement, so the advice is to politely decline the gift.

Irrespective of whether the Bribery Bill becomes law, please make sure you’re familiar with the Code of Expectations of Employees, particularly 3.15 Standards of Business Conduct.

More information is available from the Trust’s NHS Counter Fraud Specialist Keren Lovell, and on the Counter Fraud section of the RUH Intranet. Keren can be contacted via her mobile on 07971 580 820 or email keren.lovell@nhs.net.