

5th May 2009

The Future is in our hands

Bugs are going to be the talking point at the RUH all this week as the hospital launches its annual Infection Control Week: The Future is in Our Hands from Tuesday 5 - Friday 9 May.

The hospital has made huge improvements in keeping the bugs at bay over the last two years and the number of infections such as MRSA and Clostridium Difficile has dropped considerably. But the hard work never stops and the focus of the year's event is to get even better in the future.

Yvonne Pritchard, Senior Nurse for Infection Control says: "The future *really* is in our hands. Not only can all our staff, patients and visitors do something to help, the one simple task of washing hands with soap and water can have a significant impact of reducing infections in hospitals."

All week the infection control nurses will be handing out 'green cards' to reward staff and recognise their commitment to promoting good practice. Yvonne adds: "Simple changes such as removing jewellery and tying hair back can make a big difference. We want to acknowledge the staff who are excellent role models."

Other activities in the week include themed displays, competitions and quizzes on various aspects of infection prevention as well as a Trust wide 'de-clutter'.

A course for infection control link practitioners, 'Proud to be an infection control link' is also running; these practitioners provide a vital link between the infection control team and the staff on the wards.

Director of Nursing, Francesca Thompson says: "As a Trust we've seen an impressive reduction in infections over the past two years and we've achieved great success in hand hygiene. But we need to keep pushing ourselves and working together to achieve even greater reductions.

"Our aim is to have no patients suffering MRSA bacteraemia at the RUH. This is challenging but achievable; everyone has a part to play in reducing and preventing infections and it is of vital importance that we work together to make the RUH a safe place for patients."

This event coincides with the first Global Patient Safety Challenge and the launch of the Save Lives: Clean your Hands initiative.

ENDS