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Media Release

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Patient Safety Award winner

Over 200 members of the public celebrated the announcement of the winner of the hospital's Patient Safety Award, at the Trust's Annual General Meeting tonight.

The Patient Safety Award was presented to Senior Nurse Anne Plaskitt, at a full house at the Assembly Rooms in Bath, in recognition of her contribution to a number of initiatives for keeping patients safe at the RUH.

Anne was instrumental in developing the electronic patient risk assessment used by nurses. Every patient admitted to hospital is assessed to identify whether they are at risk of, for example, falling, or developing pressure ulcers, whether they are confused, or have dementia etc. This risk assessment becomes part of the patient's electronic record. Acting as a link between IT and clinical staff, Anne supported the design and integration with existing paper records to ensure this system is used to its full potential by nurses.

Anne was also integral to the implementation of comfort rounds, which are designed to anticipate a patient's care needs, to ensure they are recorded in a uniform way across the hospital. Ward staff regularly visit patients to ask them if they would like something to drink, or would like to be repositioned, or use the bathroom. Many patients can be confused or frail and vulnerable and they either have difficulty or are hesitant to tell a member of staff that they need something. These comfort rounds provide an opportunity for patients to ask for what they need, without having to attract the attention of a member of staff, and helps us to make their stay in hospital more comfortable.

Anne happily accepted the award but insists the honour should be shared with her colleagues: "I really can't take all the credit for developing these systems which help to keep our patients safe. It has been a team effort, so I am delighted to accept the award on behalf of us all."

Francesca Thompson, Director of Nursing at the RUH, says: "Anne is totally committed to improving and ensuring the safety of our patients. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that safe and high quality care is at the core of everything we do. We couldn't be more delighted for Anne, she is a very deserving winner of the Patient Safety Award and a superb role model for nursing staff."

Guests also enjoyed an opportunity to talk to staff about the work of the hospital and to hear first hand about improvements in patient care.

Respiratory Physician Dr Vidan Masani talked about how the RUH is improving care for people with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease; a debilitating respiratory disease. He was joined by Dr Alastair Kerr, Elderly Care Consultant, who spoke about how we are improving care for patients at the end of their lives.

Exhibitions also showcased some of the other work the hospital is doing, and staff were on hand to answer any questions.

Ends