Our team of NHS England (North) Care Sector Leads support the Independent Care Sector and encourage quality improvement initiatives, preventing delayed transfers of care and improving the flow of care sector clients through hospital systems. Contact any of us to share your news highlights:

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Mrs Smithson began her nursing career in 1948 and still volunteers her services to the care sector. The proudest day of her career was the day she qualified.

What’s yours?
The focus this month is to celebrate achievements and innovation in nursing and ‘Show your pride in the profession’.

Resources to support this month’s challenge are included in a blog by Leigh Kendall from NHS Horizons [https://nhshorizons.passle.net/post/102ey1y/getting-started-with-blogging](https://nhshorizons.passle.net/post/102ey1y/getting-started-with-blogging) It is packed with hints, tips and reminders (e.g. don’t forget the NMC Code of Conduct!)

Don’t forget to publish your blog here: [https://nhs70.crowdicit.y.com/category/26430](https://nhs70.crowdicit.y.com/category/26430)

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Be the change you want to see… the Big Picture

Watch the video that accompanies this blog here: [https://vimeo.com/274947682](https://vimeo.com/274947682)

Integration has been a theme; an aspiration that has travelled with me during my whole career. Much progress has been made in delivering person-centred outcomes for people using services, but we are not there yet. It looks and feels so different depending where the person is in the system. The language we use is confusing even though the words may be the same, different meanings are attributed.

People who use services do not understand these differences or nuances until it personally impacts upon them or their loved ones. They expect people to share relevant and pertinent information about them, but they do not expect to be at the receiving end of duplicate assessments to suit all the different organisations involved.

All staff working across health & social care and housing systems need to work together to achieve the best outcomes for people, irrespective of the constraints that can sometimes conspire to work against what they would like to achieve, such as existing policy; cultures of organisations; legislation… the list could go on.

Achieving it will depend on each person in the various systems playing their part. It will require a shift in how colleagues across health and social care and housing systems think, speak and behave, this means you and me!

What will you do differently to be this change?

Sharon Blackburn CBE, RGN RMN Policy and Communications Director National Care Forum @NCFSharon
The Care Home Live Bed State Portal has changed its name in anticipation of some new functions coming soon! The Capacity Tracker will do all the same – and more!

As it is the Capacity Tracker identifies vacancies in care homes through a pc / laptop/tablet or phone. It is going from strength to strength as health and social care staff increasingly recognise it is an integral part of winter planning and can play a significant part in reducing delayed transfers of care.

Delivering the following benefits; it:
✓ Is free, easy and quick to use
✓ Provides real time capacity at a glance
✓ Removes the need for repeated phone calls requesting availability
✓ Provides informed choice when finding and selecting a home

It’s important care home colleagues update the portal regularly because:
✓ You can instantly showcase vacancies to those seeking the right care home for them inside and outside your local area
✓ The date and time of each update assures you the information is current
✓ Care home colleagues get more targeted calls about existing vacancies

New Sites coming on-line in the next month are Blackpool, Blackburn & Darwen, Chorley South Ribble, East Lancashire, Greater Preston, Fylde and Wyre, West Lancashire, Morecambe Bay!

Coming later this summer:
Home Care functionality

Register here: https://carehomes.necsu.nhs.uk
or email Stuartflanagn1@nhs.net
and follow us on Twitter @CapacityTracker

Quantifying the contributions of nursing, midwifery and care staff

A national Leading Change, Adding Value (LCAV) 'Atlas of Shared Learning' has been published. The Atlas will clearly demonstrate how nursing, midwifery and care staff across the health and social care sectors identified unwarranted variation in practice, led the changes needed to address that variation and helped narrow the gaps highlighted in Five Year Forward View. It will also enable all staff to source learning on quantifying improved outcomes, experiences and use of resources. The Atlas of Shared Learning can be viewed at https://www.england.nhs.uk/leadingchange/atlas-of-shared-learning/

The LCAV Atlas of Shared Learning will include case studies from across health and social care. For example, one case study highlights that there was unwarranted variation in how staff at local care homes in South Norfolk accessed urgent help for their residents. Care home practitioners identified that in crisis situations, there was a need to communicate a resident’s change in condition and staff reported anxiety about making such calls, sometimes lacking in confidence about who to contact or what information to provide. GPs, ambulance staff and 111 call handlers had reported that the right call wasn’t always made or enough information given for timely decision-making. They worked together to reduce avoidable hospital admissions by developing a checklist and trained care staff in its use. As a result, there are fewer urgent calls,

We would like to hear from you if you are leading change in your work, please submit a case study. You can download a template to fill in at https://www.england.nhs.uk/leadingchange/contact-us/case-studies You can also email the team at england.leading-change@nhs.net for further information.

Your case study could contribute to the Atlas of Shared Learning, sharing good practice across England.
React to Red resources are provided free of charge to Care Homes. The resources come in a pack containing a DVD, workbook, posters, carer leaflet, competency form and a pocket guide. Training is offered to care home and home care colleagues and they are asked to put forward champions from their staff who will continue the training within the home, using a train the trainer approach.

For further information please contact: England.R2R@nhs.net

What is a ‘safety huddle’?

- Informed by QI tools and visual feedback
- Focused meeting about one or more agreed patient harm
- Who are the patients most likely at risk of harm?
- Agreed actions
- Set of team/individual actions (aimed at reducing risk of patient harm)
- Multidisciplinary frontline team invited to attend
- Including non-clinical
- Senior clinical leadership
- Non-judgemental environment and all team staff empowered to speak up
- Daily (Monday—Friday as minimum)
- Predictable time and venue (appropriate to team and context)
- Brief (5-15 minutes)
- Celebration and recognition of milestones

Conclusion The use of the safety huddle had a positive impact on both safety culture and embedding learning regarding ‘React to Red’. The safety huddles motivated staff and promoted a safer care environment through recognition of achievement and the sharing of learning from incidents and good practice. The safety huddle has provided a structure for further improvement work with care homes and subsequently some have chosen to include other harms such as falls and deterioration.

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Sepsis strategy for Lancashire Care Homes 2017-2020

Aim - To improve sepsis related experiences and outcomes for care home residents across Lancashire

SIGNS OF SEPSIS CAN INCLUDE:
- Slurred speech
- Extreme shivering or muscle pain
- Passing no urine (in a day)
- Severe breathlessness
- ’I feel like I may die’
- Skin mottled or discoloured

1 WHY?
Together we want to prevent avoidable illness, harm and unnecessary deaths caused by sepsis

Post infection reviews for MRSA and C.difficile (from 2015) with care homes found:
- A lack of consistent and evidence based approaches for detecting sepsis
- Variation in the use of language and clinical evidence to communicate to key health care providers
- ‘We think this is sepsis’ was not stated
- Delays in the timely escalation for appropriate healthcare
- District nurses and care home staff also tell us sepsis is a problem that needs to be addressed

2 WHAT?
Our sepsis training and development sessions for Lancashire care homes are designed to improve staff knowledge, confidence and skills to shape better sepsis care for residents

Our training and development sessions include how to:
- Prevent infections in care homes
- Identify and report signs of infections early and request appropriate treatment from GPs
- Safety net residents using NEWS with understanding of normal baseline observations
- Identify deterioration and suspicion of sepsis early: NEWS + signs of infection + soft signs of sepsis
- Escalate residents for time critical and appropriate healthcare
- Improve care of residents post sepsis diagnosis
- Raise public and professional awareness of sepsis

3 WHERE?
When care home staff are trained, implementation of approaches in our residential and nursing care homes looks like this:

Leadership & Management
- Managers
- Deputy managers
- Nurses
- Senior carers:
  - Inspire and lead change
  - Develop teams
  - Embed and sustain new approaches

PERSON CENTRED CARE
- Residents:
  - Receive monthly baseline observations + records
  - Infections, where appropriate, are treated at source
  - Are tracked for deterioration and suspicion of sepsis
  - Staff are more aware of care needs post sepsis diagnosis

QUALITY ASSURANCE
- knowledge, skilled, confident staff
- NEWS score sheet
- NEWS recording
- Deterioration protocols: NEWS + signs of infection + suspicion of sepsis
- Escalation protocols
- Improved quality handovers
- Improved transfers of care between providers

STAFF & SYSTEMS
- Implementation of sustained and consistent evidence based and best practice approaches to the prevention and management of sepsis in care homes
- Improved communication between health and social care professionals with regards to the management of residents with sepsis
- Improved and timely responses across community healthcare providers to attend to the needs of residents with suspected sepsis
- Rapid referral of residents to local acute trusts for appropriate and time critical treatment of sepsis
- Increased awareness of the care needs of residents post sepsis diagnosis
- Improved public awareness of sepsis in Lancashire care homes

Our residents have said: We like having our observations taken, knowing they are within normal range and if they are not, we know something will be done about it. We feel reassured.

Our staff have said: We are very excited at the skills and knowledge we have gained from the Sepsis Training Course for Lancashire care homes and we are looking forward to implementing the approaches in our home.

Julie Carman, sepsis survivor and UK Sepsis Trust volunteer: The care home staff will know their residents well and be able to advocate for their residents if needs be. It is my belief that this will improve timely treatment, diagnosis and outcomes for this age group and empower the staff.

@LancsIPC

infectionprevention@lancashire.gov.uk
Getting ready for winter

Despite the rising temperature outside it isn’t too early to be thinking about winter

What plans have you put in place to keep residents out of hospital?

What would it take to make you comfortable to receive patients from hospital after 8pm and at weekends?

How can we help you to put systems in place?

Don’t forget - for every one week in bed the muscles of a person aged over 80 years old will age by ten years. They will lose 1.5kg of muscle mass and reduce their aerobic capacity by 20%. Cumulatively this will increase the risk that person will require institutionalised care fivefold

Since 47% of delayed transfers of care from hospital are associated with deconditioning it means there are fewer beds available in hospital for other people who need them

What can you do differently today to make a difference to those in your care so they don’t need to go in to hospital at all?

Contact your Care Sector Lead with any ideas, suggestions or comments, their contact details are on the front page

What’s happening in August?

Our next 30 day challenge is to run a ‘breaking the rules’ meeting to promote positive perceptions in nursing in the health and social care sector.