

Transforming Care Weekly



Stroke Kaizen Event Leads to Improvements

First Kaizen activity with the Stroke Team takes place at PRH

The Stroke Service at PRH recently approached the Kaizen Promotion Office to support their first Kaizen activity.

The purpose of the Kaizen event was to look into the process of when a patient needs to complete a swallow test as part of their assessment.

Executive Sponsor Colin Ovington describes why the Kaizen event is important

“Swallowing problems are very common after a stroke. Almost half of people who have a stroke will have some difficulties in the first few weeks. Swallowing is a complicated task,

which needs your brain to coordinate lots of different muscles”

Colin went on to say “Sometimes a stroke can damage the parts of the brain that do this. Patients need early assessment to see if they can swallow safely within the first few hours of being in hospital. If a patient can’t swallow safely then food and drink may be getting into their airway and lungs. This is called aspiration. It can lead to infections and pneumonia. So it’s extremely important that swallowing problems are spotted early”

An example of one of the improvements that were made was the Swallow Test Kit Box.

This Set-up Reduction technique meant that all the items required for a swallow test was available for the team in ED.



This simple idea meant that the time taken to complete the test reduced significantly from 7 hours 33mins to just 66mins.

Dates for the Diary:

Transforming Care CEO Stand Ups

Friday 19 January 2018 at 12.30pm
at RSH and PRH

Friday 26 January 2018 at 12.30pm
at RSH and PRH

TCPS Methodology Training

Monday 22 January 2018 at 9am at
RSH *PLACES STILL AVAILABLE*



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