

SaTH NHS Trust – Quality and Safety Committee Chair Report

July 2019

Engagement with the Support Services Care Group

Clinical Site Visit

The committee visited the x-ray department at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. Members were told about the development of reporting radiographer roles and heard about the successes in recruiting and retaining radiography staff. As in other services, the key elements to this success are to provide an excellent experience to students, to provide a formal preceptorship as staff start work within the department and to demonstrate opportunities for career progression. Members were pleased to see that there was evidence of investment in high specification monitors to facilitate reporting and to hear that refurbishment of the x-ray rooms with new equipment is imminent

Medication Supply

The support services highlighted that the pharmacy is having difficulties in sourcing a range of medications that are commonly prescribed within our hospitals. This appears to be a “pre-brexit” effect. The sense is that, as manufacturers experience problems in meeting the demand for specific drugs, the limited supplies available will be targeted at larger markets. This may be a harbinger for challenges that may be experienced after 31st October,

Challenged Services

Accident and Emergency

As the committee has previously commented; there remains concerns with respect to the sustainability of the accident and emergency services as a result of staffing challenges. Actions are in place to improve rostering and to drive further recruitment. Existing staff are to be applauded for the commitment and resilience that they have demonstrated. Executive members of the committee reported, however, that short term suspensions of service on the Princess Royal site were “highly likely” and that contingency planning along with the necessary stakeholder engagement was in progress. A key to managing short term closures will be to engage effectively with the Shropshire population.

Gastroenterology

The Trust is not currently able to provide a service for the management of acute upper gastrointestinal bleeding that meets prescribed standards. Current requirements are that units should be able to:

- Offer endoscopy to unstable patients with severe acute upper gastrointestinal bleeding immediately after resuscitation; and
- Offer endoscopy within 24 hours of admission to all other patients with upper gastrointestinal bleeding.

SATH is not currently able to comply with these requirements across its 2 sites.

Anaesthetics

At the Quality and Safety meeting in June 2019 the committee heard that there are problems with maintaining an adequate level of anaesthetic support at PRH. This situation has not resolved, the committee was, therefore, unable to gain assurance with respect to the sustainability of anaesthetic services to support obstetrics, intensive care activity, the resuscitation team as well as the anaesthetic service for surgical activities on the site.

CT Scanner at Princess Royal Hospital

The Q&S Committee previously advised the Trust Board of its concerns with respect to the reliance on an aging CT scanner as a single point of failure within the stroke pathway (Q&S Board report July 2018). Following discussions later in 2018, the committee set an expectation (see board report November 2018) that action would be taken. It is, therefore, a matter of both concern and regret that an additional CT scanner is not yet functioning on the PRH site.