Bedside handovers ‘improve rapport’

Staff at a hospital emergency assessment unit have introduced bedside nurse handovers to boost interaction with patients.

Medical, nursing and allied health professional staff at Cumberland Infirmary in Carlisle took part in a workshop with a patient representative and devised five improvements:

» Nurse handovers at patients’ bedside to boost interaction.
» A computer in each bay.
» A reduction in paperwork.
» Ensuring relevant documents are ready within one hour of discharge.
» Ensuring one third of patients who are due to be discharged are ready before midday.

» Regular monitoring of changes.

Emergency assessment unit ward manager Emily Dixon said: ‘We have introduced bedside handovers [for nurses] to develop a rapport with patients as soon as they start their shifts.’

More MS nurses needed to reduce waiting lists

New analysis shows the number of emergency department admissions for people with multiple sclerosis (MS) continues to rise, costing the NHS millions.

The report, from Wilmington Healthcare and the charity MS Trust, draws on NHS Digital data to highlight the need for more preventive care for MS patients.

Emergency admissions for people with MS in England increased by 12.7% over two years to 2015-16, with 26,679 admissions costing the NHS a total of £46 million.

Paul’s brother, Jonathan Ridd, said: ‘Melanie has been a source of unwavering support and inspiration. Having a close family member with a learning disability, Melanie was empathetic.’

A senior emergency department nurse, Drew McDonald, won the RCNi Child Health Award (see feature, page 16).

Go to rcni.com/nurse-awards for more information about the award winners

In brief

‘Extortionate’ parking fees of almost £90 a month are leaving some healthcare staff struggling to pay, a new study reveals.

Research by Unison showed that many NHS trusts operate a flat-rate payment system regardless of how much staff are paid. A freedom of information request found that the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust charges full-time staff £85.38 a month to park on site. Unison’s Christina McAnea said: ‘The government should guarantee fair parking charges for all health employees and the NHS should stop making money off the back of its dedicated workforce.’

Chronic understaffing of nurses is continuing to put patients at risk, a survey has revealed. Two thirds of 2,704 respondents said that wards are so understaffed that nurses cannot ensure safe, dignified and compassionate care. The poor patient-to-nurse ratio on wards is worst for acutely ill or injured patients. Read the report at tinyurl.com/l9hf7ec

A nurse who cared for injured people after the London Westminster attack on 22 March has been raising funds to support her colleagues. Trauma nurse Emily Ashworth is set to run the Prague marathon on 7 May to raise funds for Imperial College Healthcare Charity. She said: ‘The incident inspired me to do this marathon to support our work. On a day-to-day basis Imperial’s major trauma centre sees stabbings and shootings, and we deal with the victims of crime.’ Ms Ashworth will continue her fundraising efforts in July when she competes in the London Triathlon. Sponsor her at justgiving.com/fundraising/AshworthMTC