

Friday, January 13th 2012

PRESS RELEASE

“Blackpool Hospital staff saved my leg”

A LADY who was close to losing her leg after an accident in her home has praised staff at Blackpool Victoria Hospital after receiving life changing treatment.

St Annes resident, Pat Whelan, 70 years old, was left severely injured when she fell from a dressing table and was left with a major open wound to her leg.

She said: “I was reaching for some items that were just out of reach and after initially using the step ladders; I needed just a little more height so stepped onto my dressing table.

“The next think I knew, the dressing table had collapsed and I was on the floor in agony after a large piece of wood sliced open my leg, just under the knee.”

Pat was rushed into hospital following her accident, where it was first feared that doctors would have to amputate her leg. She went on to spend over a week in hospital where she received intravenous antibiotics and specialist treatment to her leg.

She said: “The wound was so deep that I could see the bone and when I was told that I may have had to have it amputated, I was horrified.

“I can’t imagine what my life would have been like if I lost my leg and I can only thank Mr Dunkow and the Orthopaedic Team at Blackpool Victoria Hospital for all their care and support.”

For the past five months since her accident, Pat has continued to visit the Outpatient Department of Blackpool Victoria Hospital to have her wound dressed by the Orthopaedic Nursing Team.

She said: “I have been visiting the hospital every other day since my accident to have fresh dressings applied and every member of staff I have ever come into contact with has been so friendly and very helpful

“I’ve received excellent care whilst in the hands of the orthopaedic nurses. They really did, and still do go the extra mile to make me feel comfortable and cared for – The effort and support I have received from all staff at the hospital has been fantastic.”

Mr Paul Dunkow, Orthopaedic Surgeon at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: "I was delighted in the way in which things worked out for Mrs Whelan. As soon as she was admitted to hospital, plans were put in place to amputate her leg. However, after a number of specialised surgical procedures, we were able save her leg.

"I must say that had it not been for the excellent care provided by the orthopaedic outpatient staff, where Mrs Whelan received almost daily support, undoubtedly she would have had an amputation. The leg wound has now healed and I am delighted that she is able to walk again. I wish her well in the rest of her recovery."





Caption: Pat Whelan with members of the Orthopaedic Team at Blackpool Victoria Hospital. (L to R) Sue Fox, Staff Nurse; Mr Paul Dunkow, Orthopaedic Surgeon; Pat Whelan; Denise Blincow, Health Care Assistant and Garry Abram, Staff Nurse.

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