



Wednesday, November 18, 2015

MEDIA RELEASE

‘Stop the Pressure’ campaign aims to prevent ulcers

The issue of pressure ulcers, also known as bed sores, will be the subject of an awareness raising event at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

More than 70 members of Trust staff are signed up to attend the event in the lecture theatre in the hospital’s Education Centre from 9am to 4pm on Thursday, November 19.

The theme of the Trust’s event is: ‘Understanding your duty of care’. Speakers will include a dietician, members of the end of life team, specialist nurses and the Trust’s solicitor.

‘Stop the Pressure’ is a global campaign designed to make people aware of the potentially life-threatening dangers of pressure ulcers.

Globally, the event is promoted by the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (EPUAP). The event brings industry, healthcare professionals, the public and media together to help raise awareness.

A pressure ulcer is damage to the skin and the deeper layer of tissue under the skin. This happens when pressure is applied to the same area of skin for a

period of time and cuts off the blood supply. Pressure ulcers are more likely to develop if a person has to stay in bed for a long period of time.

Without care, pressure ulcers can become very serious. They may cause pain or result in a much longer stay in hospital. Pressure ulcers can badly damage the muscle or bone underneath the skin and take a long time to heal. Severe pressure ulcers in very ill people can lead to serious illness or even death.

Nichola Nangle, Tissue Viability Specialist Nurse for the Trust, said: "As an organisation we are always looking at reducing the amount of pressure ulcers in our patients.

"Patients can acquire quite serious health issues from pressure ulcers. We are trying to get the word out that there are things that can be done. We want to raise awareness that pressure ulcers are always preventable.

"The Tissue Viability Service offers training and we have regular half-day sessions held in the Clinical Skills Centre.

"We do training for first year students, health care assistants and qualified nurses in the Clinical Skills Centre. We also do a lot of work with our community staff and our nurses from overseas.

"If the Tissue Viability Service is involved sooner, we can sort out the appropriate care for individuals with pressure ulcers."

-Ends-

Notes:

Agenda for Stop the Pressure Awareness Day:

8.45am: Registration

9am: Introduction:

9.45am: Nutrition: Madeline Little Dietician

10.30am: Coffee Break

11am: Skin Integrity at End of Life: End of Life Team

11.45am: Medstrom: Dynamic Mattress: Sue Guy (Clinical Nurse Advisor)

12.30pm: Lunch

1.30pm: The Blackpool Journey: Tracy Burrell: (ADN Nursing & Quality)

2.30pm: Legal Perspective: Dawn Goodall (Trust Solicitor)

3.15pm: Pressure Ulcer Classification and Quiz: TV Specialist Nurses

4pm: Close and questions.

There is a training page on the Trust's Tissue Viability intranet site.

Photo caption: Lying in bed in the same position for extended lengths of time can lead to pressure ulcers.



For all media enquiries please contact Ingrid Kent, communications support officer, on 01253 956 875 or Ingrid.Kent@bfwhospitals.nhs.uk