

Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust

The Challenge

One of the key objectives for the Hospital is the early and informed diagnosis of delirium prior to the onset of dementia.

Patients: High risk of falls and incidents, agitation and wandering, isolation and boredom, discharge to care homes

Staff: Low morale and high levels of stress, sickness and absence, complaints, uncoordinated care

A growing number of people are being admitted to hospital with or developing delirium. There are issues recognising those at risk..

The Hospital have reported that together with the support of their Enhanced Care Team, they have been able to realise nil falls for 76 days, which is a first for the Trust. The Mental Health Team have also remarked that they have seen a significant downward trend in calls for anti-psychotic medication. - Caroline Sellars OT - HCT

The Solution

Calderdale and Huddersfield are one of the many Trusts working towards bettering the quality of life for individuals who come through their doors. A main focus of this is to take a view on service users suffering from memory problems and/or varying stages of dementia.

We have launched 'POD' (Prevention of Delirium) Intergenerational Project - A care approach to support people at risk of developing delirium in hospital.



Renee Comerford

The Solution

We obtained one of the units which is stationed on a portable trolley, meaning this can be transported to any area of the Hospital. Whether it be bedside lounges or group settings. Staff are actively using the RITA to work with the Trust's patients, toward improving their lifestyle, memory and overall experience.

These units supported our Preventions and Management Strategies which involved interventions from nursing, medical and therapy teams in managing 10 clinical factors; 1) Cognitive impairment/confusion, 2) Dehydration +/- or constipation, 3) Hypoxia, 4) Immobility or impaired mobility, 5) Infection, 6) Multiple medications, 7) Pain, 8) Poor Nutrition, 9) Sensory impairment, 10) Sleep disturbance.

Meaningful occupation that ward staff may not have time to carry out routinely; spending time with patients, engaging in social and stimulating activities was supported by Volunteers and Families and the use of the system was pivotal in supporting that level of activity. Such was the success of the system, the Trust are now purchasing several more of the systems. The ability to record the level of activity spent with a patient within the back office system of the technology is particularly valuable.