

Media Release

January 8 2010

Lymington New Forest Hospital Takes the Pressure off for its Patients

Lymington New Forest Hospital has given its patients 'diamonds' this Christmas, with 20 new pressure-relieving mattresses that will not only improve physiotherapy, but also reduce bed sores and the chances of bed falls.

The diamond mattresses, from Squirrel Medical - one of two suppliers providing to the hospital, will make physiotherapy sessions far easier; the firmness in the mattress allows patients to be treated more effectively, as the physiotherapists can move the patient around easier and provide patients with more support. The new mattresses also have the same feel of a high quality foam mattress, so patients will find the experience far more comfortable.

As well as all this, the mattresses will help to reduce the chances of bed falls as they fit in the bed frame even better than traditional deep-cell mattresses. This also helps to reduce the chances of entrapment and bed falls. The modern design of these mattresses prevent the 'pinching effect' underneath patients which can cause pressure ulcers to those in a seated position for long periods of time. Also, as the mattresses are only five inches high, patients are able to get in and out of bed more easily and those with mobility problems will be able to move more freely, especially from a lying to sitting position.

Toni Scammell, Modern Matron for Lymington New Forest Hospital is delighted about the new delivery: "Pressure ulcers are a huge discomfort for patients, so anything we can do to avoid or relieve this we do. The added benefits on top of this made them the obvious choice. These mattresses are a worthwhile investment to make sure patients get the care they deserve."

The diamond mattresses were evaluated as the best from a therapy and rehabilitation perspective. Lyn adds: "The trial gave us an opportunity to compare different products from various companies, we included both therapy and nursing staff in the trial and the decision-making process for choosing what they felt was the most suitable mattresses for our patients."

ends

Notes to Editors:

For further information please contact Natasha Ings on Natasha.ings@hchc.nhs.uk or the Communications Team on 023 8087 4276.

About HCHC

Hampshire Community Health Care (HCHC) is the Autonomous Provider Organisation for NHS Hampshire. Its aim is to bring health care home, offering community-based care to help people stay independent in their own homes, support children and their families, help reduce unnecessary admissions to acute hospitals and offer assistance to patients after major operations.

It provides services for: adults (including Orthopaedic Choice) and children, as well as Hampshire's stop smoking service, Quit4Life, the Hampshire Community Dental Service and the Chlamydia screening programme and other sexual health services.

HCHC runs 13 community hospitals - Lymington New Forest Hospital, Gosport War Memorial Hospital, Chase Community Hospital, Alton Community Hospital, Hythe Hospital, Havant War Memorial Hospital, Milford on Sea War Memorial Hospital, Odiham Cottage Hospital, Petersifeld Hospital, Romsey Hospital, Emsworth Victoria Hospital, Fleet Community Hospital and Fordingbridge Hospital. It also has some services available at Andover Hospital.

HCHC has over 3,500 staff in Hampshire and its HQ is at Tatchbury Mount, Calmore (near Southampton), although the majority of services are based in community hospitals, health centres, in the community and at other sites around the county.