

Press release

6th October 2010

Space-age furniture helping to battle the superbugs

A space-age chair and commode are the latest weapons in the fight against superbugs such as MRSA and Clostridium difficile (C.diff) being trialled by The Dudley Group of Hospitals.

The chair and commode, which have been developed by the NHS Innovations Team, are easier to clean because they feature fewer hard-to-reach areas, wipe-clean frames and easy-to-remove parts.

The chair has foam-filled cushions held in place with magnets which have pressure relieving properties for maximum support and comfort. The commode has been designed to look like a toilet, instead of a piece of furniture, to put patients at ease when using the equipment at the bedside without compromising their dignity.

The equipment is being trialled on Ward B3 and in the Emergency Assessment Unit and was unveiled by the Infection Control team at the Trust's AGM on 27th September. Visitors were able to inspect the equipment for themselves and talk about the benefits of it with members of the Infection Control team.

The Trust is also waiting for the delivery of 20 Sanipost stations to encourage visitors and patients to clean their hands when entering clinical areas.

The stations, which will be located around the Trust's three hospital sites, deliver a shot of non-alcoholic anti-bacterial foam which is as effective as the alcohol-based hand wash currently found at the entrance to wards.

Consultant Nurse for Infection Control Dawn Westmoreland said the latest equipment would continue the Trust's efforts in reducing healthcare associated infections.

"Infection prevention and control is a top priority for the Trust and we are pleased that our robust efforts have seen a reduction in the number of both MRSA bacteraemia and C.diff infections in the past year," she said.

"During 2009/10, the Trust recorded 10 cases of MRSA bacteraemia and a total of 126 cases of C. diff.

"We continue the fight to reduce infections in hospital and we are working hard with our community services to ensure people do not contract MRSA or C. diff in other settings outside of hospital."

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For more information, please call Jonathan Wood, Communications Officer for The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, on (01384) 321064.