

31 December 2018

PRESS RELEASE

MBE for Dudley hospital Parkinson's specialist

A specialist pharmacist with The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours.

Dr Janine Barnes has worked in the innovative role of neurology specialist pharmacist with the Trust since 2009. This was the first role in the UK to combine prescribing and managing Parkinson's disease (her specialist area) with educating primary and secondary care staff on neurology.

She was also recognised for her work with NICE – the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence – in drawing up the updated Parkinson's disease guidelines. She has been chosen to sit on the NICE guideline committee which will review the use of cannabis products in neurological conditions.

Janine works for the Trust four days a week and in her own time works tirelessly to support Parkinson's patients both locally and nationally. She founded, and is now the chair of, the Parkinson's Disease Specialist Pharmacy Network, a national network aimed at up-skilling pharmacists in the management of Parkinson's disease. She is also a regular adviser to Parkinson's UK.

She said: "I am delighted to be awarded the MBE in recognition of all the additional work that I do over and above my employed job.

"I am very passionate about my innovative neurology specialist pharmacist role and I also pride myself in good patient care and safe prescribing for the people I manage with Parkinson's disease.

"Dudley showed great innovation in the formation of my role in 2009, and we have continued to develop it since.

"It has enabled us to significantly improve the patient experience of people with Parkinson's disease by reducing waiting times and allowing treatment closer to home.

"As the benefit of the role has become apparent, I have been involved in replicating it in a number of other health authorities. I feel very privileged to be able to help people

with Parkinson's disease and their relatives and I am very fortunate to meet many lovely people on a daily basis."

Parkinson's is thought to affect around one in 500 people in the UK. It causes tremors, stiffness in the muscles and slow movement. It can also lead to depression, memory problems and insomnia.

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For more information, please call Alison Ashmore, Communications Officer for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, on (01384) 456111 extension 3403 or email alison.ashmore1@nhs.net