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For local media

Unique service helps anaemic patients recover better from major surgery

Patients undergoing major surgery at Russells Hall Hospital can receive intravenous (IV) iron to boost their red blood cells by a team of specialists in the community without the need to come to hospital for this treatment.

This unique integrated hospital and community service, which makes patients suffering from anaemia fitter for their operations and helps them recover better, has been shortlisted for a major health industry award.

“Surgical patients who have low blood iron levels are more likely to need a blood transfusion during or after surgery,” said Dr Adrian Jennings, consultant anaesthetist and clinical lead for theatres at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

“Administering iron intravenously through a cannula is more effective and works faster than giving iron tablets. Patients feel better almost straight away and their surgical outcome is improved.”

“Once a patient is assessed as requiring IV iron by the preoperative assessment team, the referral process is quick and treatment is usually administered within a few days,” said Dr Jennings.

Patients attend at a clinic run by our specialist community intravenous therapy nurses at Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre.

“It’s much more convenient for patients to have treatment in the community instead of going to hospital and the feedback we’ve had from patients has been very good, said Kate Owen, Community IV Team Leader.”

The majority of patients to benefit from IV iron infusion had colorectal, orthopaedic or gynaecological surgery.

“I am delighted that this successful initiative to improve pre-operative iron deficiency anaemia has been shortlisted in the Health Service Journal Patient Safety Awards 2020,” said chief executive Diane Wake.

“This innovative service is making a real difference to our patients and there are huge benefits to their health, wellbeing and experience of care and treatment at our Trust. Making the shortlist is thoroughly deserved and I wish them all the best at the awards.”

The entry – A successful initiative to improve pre-operative iron deficiency anaemia – has been shortlisted in the category of Perioperative and Surgical Care Awards.

This year the awards will take place virtually as part of the Patient Safety Virtual Congress and Awards in November 2020.

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Issued by the communications team at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

Approved by: