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PRESS RELEASE

Trust wins national patient safety award

A new service to improve outcomes for anaemic patients having surgery has won a national health industry award for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

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

The unique integrated hospital and community service, which makes patients suffering from iron deficiency fitter for their operations, won the Perioperative and Surgical Care Award at the HSJ Patient Safety Awards 2020.

“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.”

He added: “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.”

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

Kate Owen, community IV team leader, said: “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.”

Trust chief executive Diane Wake said: “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. It shows multi-disciplinary working at its best with teams coming together to provide a solution for our patients and we are delighted that this has been recognised nationally.”

Judges described the project as a 'great common-sense intervention, and a strong example of using all members of the healthcare team to deliver an important pre-operative therapy.'

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

Approved by: