USE OF THE NATIONAL EARLY WARNING SCORE ACROSS WALES

- Teams across Wales ‘speaking same language’
- Clear response indicators for deteriorating patients
- Sepsis bags and bundles aim for early prevention

Wales became the first country to adopt NEWS, with the life-saving intervention now an integral part of ward care in hospitals across the nation. It is providing frontline clinical teams with a standardised approach to deteriorating patients, meaning life-threatening conditions like sepsis are spotted earlier and stopped more quickly.

Doctors, nurses, and other wards staff across Wales are carrying NEWS Cards, as reminders of the scoring system. The cards enable staff to ‘score’ their patients against known risk factors and call for a response depending on the total score.

“All staff, wherever they work in a hospital, and whether they are doctors, nurses, physiotherapists or other staff, can use this card to assess patients,” says Dr Chris Subbe, 1000 Lives Plus faculty member for Rapid Response to Acute Illness (RRAILS).

“It provides a standard level of response to ensure that every patient in Wales receives the same level and quality of care.”

NEWS_Wales App brings safe scoring to iPhones

The National Early Warning Score has also been turned into an iPhone App, meaning NHS Wales staff can score patients automatically, reducing the chance of miscalculation. No patient data is stored in the free app that can be downloaded from the AppStore.

Success Stories in Critical Care

Excellent progress has been made in critical care in Wales in the last five years. New procedures have been introduced for minimising infections from equipment use, improved care and early intervention before a patient’s condition deteriorated.

The number of Central Line Infections (CLI) has been reduced and there has been a sustained reduction in catheter-related bloodstream infections (CRBSI).

The success of these interventions in critical care is now being replicated on other wards, using similar tools and techniques to identify deterioration in the health of patients. New procedures have helped staff respond more quickly with the best treatment possible.

www.1000livesplus.wales.nhs.uk/critical-care

Rapid Response to Acute Illness

The Rapid Response to Acute Illness Learning Set (RRAILS) is one of the programme areas in 1000 Lives Plus. The RRAILS group includes representatives from all NHS Wales organisations, ensuring better practice is being spread through the country.

www.1000livesplus.wales.nhs.uk/rrails

United efforts for World Sepsis Day

NHS Wales organisations supported World Sepsis Day in September 2012, with events held across the country, and special resources produced to raise awareness of sepsis among staff.

www.1000livesplus.wales.nhs.uk/world-sepsis-day

Putting a STOP to infections from medical devices

The STOP Campaign is targeting infections caused by catheters and cannulas. A range of awareness-raising materials have been developed and used to help staff reduce the number of devices being used, ensure they are properly maintained if they are used, and encourage prompt removal.

www.1000livesplus.wales.nhs.uk/stop

Find out more

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