



Learning more about lymphoma during awareness week

STAFF, patients and relatives took advantage of a specialist awareness week to learn more about lymphatic cancer.

Held from 10 to 16 September, the week was commemorated at the Trust by the North Manchester and Bury Lymphoma Support Group holding information stands at The Royal Oldham Hospital and North Manchester General Hospital.

Organised by members of the group and Sally Lees, haematology nurse specialist at Pennine Acute, they spent time telling interested passers by about the symptoms of lymphoma and the support available both nationally and locally to them.

Joyce Young a member of the group said: "The Lymphoma Association are the UK's only charity focused exclusively on providing specialist information and support to help lymphoma patients, their relatives, friends and carers. They help people feel less vulnerable, more confident and more in control, which helps them cope and deal with their treatment.

"The North Manchester and Bury Lymphoma Support Group was formed two years ago as an initiative led by Sally Lees, haematology nurse specialist at the Trust. The aim of the group is to provide support to individuals who have been affected by Lymphoma either themselves or by supporting somebody with the disease. It does not matter at which hospital they attended or the treatment received, everyone is welcome.

"The group is self funded though various fund raising events and membership is thriving. At meetings, members of the group sit and talk about their feelings or just listen to others, the choice is theirs. We occasionally have visits from health professionals and guest speakers who provide information and advice on matters relating to lymphoma.

"Fundraising events are held to support our group's activities and agreed causes and we managed to raise over £1,000 from donations, a raffle and items for sale at our awareness event at the Trust."

The group meets every six weeks on a Thursday between 1.30pm and 3pm at the Oddfellows Hall in Bury. For more information contact Joyce Young (0161 766 1611) or Sally Lees (0161 778 5530). Alternatively email Joyce at dmy@talktalk.net or Sally at Sally.lees@pat.nhs.uk.

What is lymphoma?

Lymphomas are cancers of the lymphatic system. When a person has lymphoma, some of their lymphocytes (a type of white blood cell) are 'out of control'. They divide in an abnormal way or they do not die off when they should. These abnormal lymphocytes can collect in the lymph nodes, which then enlarge as the lymphocytes form tumours.

Although lymphoma is a disease of the lymphatic system, it can also happen in other areas of the body. For example, lymphoma can affect the stomach, the skin or the liver.

What is the lymphatic system?

The lymphatic system is part of the body's natural defence against infection – the immune system. The vessels and glands hold a clear fluid called lymph. Lymph contains white blood cells called lymphocytes, which the body uses to fight infection. Lymphocytes are mainly found in the lymph nodes but circulate around the body in both the blood and the lymphatic system.

Who gets lymphoma?

Lymphoma is currently the fifth most common cancer diagnosed by clinicians in the UK (after breast, lung, colon and prostate cancers). It is the most common blood cancer.

Lymphoma can occur at any age. It is the most common cancer affecting the under-30s and around 1 in 10 cancers diagnosed in children are lymphomas.

Each year in the UK, around 1,800 people are diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma and more than 12,200 people are diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Intense cleaning system launched to prevent infections

THE deprox hydrogen peroxide vapour system (HPV) has arrived at The Royal Oldham Hospital.

The patient environment has, and always will be, a difficult area to clean and cleanliness remains one of the highest priorities at the Trust.

The age old perception; 'if it looks clean it's safe' is not always correct. Studies have shown that traditional cleaning methods do not eliminate all pathogens capable of causing healthcare associated infections (HCAI).

Working with ISS Facility Service Healthcare, the Trust has introduced the deprox hydrogen peroxide vapour system which circulates a mist of disinfectant (known as fogging), around the room, which kills micro-organisms not only on walls and surfaces but also complex electronic equipment and beds.

The cleaned and disinfected room including equipment is then returned to the clinical staff, free from harmful pathogens, which greatly reduce the risk of infection to the next patient.

The deprox system should be used when a patient with Clostridium Difficile has been discharged or moved to another location within the hospital. The system can only be used for side rooms, however other equipment such as commodes can be placed in the room for full decontamination.

Currently this system is only available at The Royal Oldham Hospital and you can request the service from ISS by calling 75254 or 75255, or out of hours bleep 7686.

HPV will be available on all sites from 1 April 2013 following the implementation of the new cleaning specification.

Diary dates

1 Reminder



3 Nov - Paediatrics move into new TROH women and children's development.

16 Nov - Pressure ulcer week awareness session, education centre, Oldham 11am to 12 noon