

Lymphoma awareness

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

Held from 9 to 15 September, the week was commemorated at the Trust by the North Manchester and Bury Lymphoma Group holding information stands at The Royal Oldham Hospital and North Manchester General Hospital.

Organised by Joyce Young; members of the group spent time telling interested passers by about the symptoms of lymphoma and the support available both nationally and locally to them.

Joyce 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 Group was formed three 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 just under £400 from donations, a tombola 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 Middleton Masonic Hall. For more information contact Joyce Young (0161 766 1611) or Sally Lees (0161 778 5530). Alternatively email Joyce at dmy@sky.com or Sally at Sally.lees@pat.nhs.uk.

Access requests for patient records

DO you know which department deals with these requests?

You may have received occasionally into your department either written or verbal requests from patients, their relatives or other representatives (including solicitors) for access to their health records. You may not have known who dealt with such requests in order to redirect the correspondence or the telephone call.

The department who deals with such requests under the Data Protection Act is the medical-legal team based in the health records department at The Royal Oldham Hospital.

It is important that these requests are forwarded promptly to the team as requests must be processed in accordance with the timescales set out in the Data Protection Act.

For further information please contact: Nicola Grey at nicola.grey@pat.nhs.uk or Sandra Rushton at sandra.rushton@pat.nhs.uk

Diary dates

1 Reminder

8 Nov: 100 years of pathology talk at 2.30pm. Education Centre, TROH

18-22 Nov: Anti-bullying week

4 Dec: Eye conditions talk. 2-3pm education centre, Fairfield General Hospital

Improving patient records project - update from condition of casenotes task and finish group

Ward efforts lead to improvement in casenotes being requested for non elective admissions!

FOLLOWING on from the initial liaison visits by health records managers to wards on each site, improvements have been made with regard to non elective patients' casenotes being requested when patients are admitted to a ward. Good work ward staff and health records teams!

Since the baseline review in March this year, significant improvements have been made at both The Royal Oldham and North Manchester sites as demonstrated by a recent further review. Fairfield continue to request casenotes for very much all non elective admissions. Work is currently underway with Rochdale CAU to improve further the requesting of casenotes at point of patient admissions.

Further input needed regarding deceased patients' casenotes.

The group have highlighted that improvement needs to be made with regards to filing of documents into the casenotes of patients who pass away on our wards ie deceased patients' casenotes. The Trust has the same responsibility for the records of deceased patients as any other patient and the casenotes will be further used by departments such as clinical coding, audit, coroners and for access to records requests. The group would like to take this opportunity to ask ward staff to help us further improve the condition of patient casenotes by ensuring episodic documents for deceased patients are filed securely and appropriately in the deceased patients' casenotes before they leave the ward. Many thanks in anticipation of your input into this.

More information about the work of this group available from sandra.rushton@pat.nhs.uk

Interested in knowing more about this exciting project? Please contact: Jo Keogh, Chair of the Clinical Records Improvement Board at joanne.keogh@pat.nhs.uk or Nicola Nicholls, Chair of the Documents in Casenotes Task and Finish Group at nicola.nicholls@pat.nhs.uk

Look out for further updates in Pennine News as the project progresses