Wye Valley NHS Trust welcomes Dr Foster ‘Good Hospital Guide’

Wye Valley NHS Trust has welcomed the latest publication of Dr Foster’s ‘Good Hospital Guide’, which independently reports on the Trust’s performance during 2012/13 based on a range of quality and safety indicators.

The Trust has performed well in a number of areas including lower than expected numbers of patients readmitted to hospital within 28 days of discharge.

In the majority of the published indicators the Trust has been scored as expected or better, which means it is providing good quality and safe care for its patients.

The Trust also continues to meet acute hospital performance indicator HSMR (Hospitalised Standardised Mortality Rate) expectations.

Peter Wilson, Medical Director at Wye Valley NHS Trust, said: “We welcome the publication of this report which demonstrates that our patients are getting the right care and at the right time during their stay.

“Wye Valley’s SHMI (Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator) figures, which are published quarterly, but nine months retrospectively, remain higher than expected (the latest figure for April 2012 to March 2013 is 112.57). However, this measure should not be seen in isolation but as part of a set of indicators of quality of care, which when viewed in context paint a detailed picture of a hospital’s overall performance.

“SHMI includes deaths which occur outside of hospital but within 30 days of discharge, in our case approximately 25 per cent of these recorded deaths occur outside of the hospital, and therefore any strategy to reduce avoidable deaths has to involve the whole health community of Herefordshire, not just secondary care”.

“SHMI also does not make any adjustment for deaths occurring in palliative care patients – i.e. our patients with a terminal illness who die at home, in the hospice or in hospital”.

“The picture is further complicated in Herefordshire by the fact that Wye Valley NHS Trust is an Integrated Care Organisation which provides both Acute Hospital and Community Health services for the county – many trusts solely provide Acute Hospital services.

“The Trust Board and senior medical staff have spent considerable time understanding what lies beneath these indicator figures and have worked closely with Dr Foster (an organisation which provides healthcare information and monitors performance of the NHS).

“Recently a series of proactive measures have been instituted across Wye Valley NHS Trust to ensure that the care received by all patients is optimised; these measures include the use of Care Bundles, the use of a single early warning system (for patients whose condition is deteriorating) across the Trust and the redesign of the whole pathway of care for the emergency patient. Whilst benefitting all patients, these measures will help reduce avoidable deaths.

Herefordshire’s health service provider
“We continue to regularly review the performance of all areas of our operation and carry out detailed reviews where performance falls below the high standards we expect”, concluded Peter.

Notes to Editors WVT:

- Wye Valley NHS Trust is the provider health services across Herefordshire and beyond. The Trust exists to improve the wellbeing, independence and health of the people we serve. We are the leading provider of health care in Herefordshire.
- By working closely with our partners, we can make good our promise to deliver a quality of care we would want for ourselves, our families and our friends.
- With an estimated annual turnover of around £160 million, we employ around 2,700 plus staff. We aim to build new relationships between our staff, patients, service users and their carers with the wider community. For further information please contact:

For further information please contact:
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