

STOKE MANDEVILLE HOSPITAL NATIONAL SPINAL INJURIES CENTRE

PATIENTS' FORUM

Notes of meeting held on Wednesday 12th November 2003
at 6.30 pm in the NSIC Dining Room

Present: Dr Tom Meagher (Chair)
Mr David Griffiths (Manager NSIC)
6 Patients

1.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 8th October 2003 were approved as a true record.

2.0 New Hospital Website

The Trust website [HTTP://www.buckshospitals.nhs.uk/](http://www.buckshospitals.nhs.uk/) is now on the Intranet and can be accessed. There is a section on the NSIC which includes the minutes of the Patient Forum. TM explained that the minutes would continue to be made available through the SIA website. Currently the section on the NSIC on the website is brief but this would be expanded at a later date.

3.0 New Televisions

The Trust had arranged through PatientLine to replace 22 televisions – it is hoped these will arrive before Christmas. Mr Griffiths explained that he was also arranging to look into the problem of reception.

4.0 Patient Information Pack

A number of contributors were being co-ordinated by Godfrey Clements and a final meeting was to be held on 20th November – following this meeting information packs would be available and would be brought to the next Patient Forum.

5.0 NSIC Dining Room

Mr Griffiths explained that the Works Department had been involved and had arranged for detailed drawings. Emily Leyden, the designer, had been involved and had made available all the original plans which had been drafted. It was envisaged that the cyber café, new catering facilities and cinema area would be in place by April 2004.

ACTION

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6.0 Sign Post to the Guttman Stadium

David Griffiths informed the meeting that new sign posting had been ordered and this would shortly be in place.

7.0 MRSA

TM explained to the meeting that those patients with wounds infected with the organism MRSA had to be barrier nursed, but those patients who carried the organism (but it was not causing any tissue damage) were free to attend the dining room with relatives. However, as there was a potential for these patients to infect patients who did have open wounds, they were not free to use all the facilities in the Centre as were non-infected patients. Separate physio sessions were arranged for these patients. As MRSA is passed on through direct contact, it was essential that hand washing was adhered to.

8.0 Potholes on Path Outside Post Graduate Centre

The Works Department had costed this work and repairs and relaying of a section of path was expected to take place later this week.

9.0 Proposed Christmas Shopping Trip

Enquiries have been made and Motts Travel has a coach which can take up to 5 patients in wheelchairs and 33 others – the coach has a lift. A number of dates were made available and at the meeting it was decided that Tuesday 9th December was the most suitable day. It was thought that a departure time of 2.00pm and a return of 9.00pm would be ideal. TM explained that this would be subject to the approval of consultants and other staff and this would be discussed at next week's Spinal Directorate Committee Meeting. This would be advertised as soon as possible and costs stated.

Julia Mee

10.0 Contract with Patients

The idea of a contract or agreement with patients entering the NSIC was discussed. This was used in other Units and outlined to patients coming to the Centre policies such as no smoking, alcohol, MRSA. There was general acceptance that this was a good idea and worth exploring further. It was suggested that an agreement was a better term than contract.

DGe

11.0 Delays in Consultant Letters

This topic had been raised through the last forum and brought to the Spinal Directorate Meeting. It became clear that a number of delayed letters were solicitor reports. TM explained that this was without the NHS and the Centre could not give any undertaking in this respect. Letters to other agencies, however, should be done in a timely fashion.

12.0 Later Evening Meals

TM had received a letter explaining that the Catering Department were unable to appoint to a recently advertised position and hence it had not been possible to extend the catering hours. This would be readvertised.

13.0 Visit of the High Sheriff

Richard Godber, the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, was visiting the Unit on Thursday 13th November. Sir Jimmy Savile and Professor David Croisdale-Appleby would be in attendance.

14.0 Newspapers

It was requested that a newspaper trolley visit each ward so that patients could purchase newspapers. DG to arrange this.

DGi

15.0 Access to the Guttman Centre

There was debate as to whether access to the Guttman Centre was desirable usually at weekends. One view was that patients who would be fit to go the Centre were generally fit to go home and there may not be many that would be free to take up this opportunity. It was felt that this would be worth looking into to see how many might take up the opportunity.

TM

16.0 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 10th December 2003 at 6.30pm in NSIC Dining Room.