Leading Improvement in Patient Safety (LIPS) is one of the key ways we can help staff to make improvements in the UHB. It is designed to build capacity and capability in a suite of essential skills and is delivered through an eight day programme of learning. Training large numbers of people simultaneously over a short period of time will help build a workforce with better understanding of leadership, improvement methodology and safety. This will mean providing a consistent level of safe care, reducing harm to patients and improving their experience whilst in our care.

More than 100 people participated in the first cohort which started on March 31. Delegates were selected by their clinical boards to work on a range of specific high priority projects including:

- Improving how we recognise and treat sepsis for patients who are admitted to EU. Early detection is pivotal to patient recovery.
- Moving urogynaecology procedures from theatres to outpatients. This work builds on the learning following hysteroscopies move to a specially dedicated outpatient environment.
- District Nurses are looking at how they care for patients with wounds to promote quicker healing.

Professor Ulrich Von Oppell, Cardiac Surgeon who attended the first sessions said:

“The first days of learning were thought provoking, and offered a new approach to the analysis and interpretation of data from an engineering perspective to drive improvements at an earlier stage when any change is first noted.”

Ruth Walker, Director of Nursing added:

“This is an exciting and unique programme, the first to be delivered in NHS Wales. I was delighted with the amount of energy in the room after the third day and I am looking forward to the next sessions on May 8 & 9.”

The Programme Management Office (PMO) runs a one day project management course every six weeks. Thanks to everyone who has attended the course and your positive feedback.

Kathy Smith from Mental Health Services for Older People and Neuropsychiatry, who attended the course in January, has already implemented the HR project plan she developed as part of the training, and said: “The following day I presented the Project Plan I developed on the course to my team, which introduces a new HR scheme. We used this model to roll out the project immediately. I thoroughly enjoyed the course and would recommend attending to anyone who is working at the UHB.”

If you are interested in attending one of these sessions please discuss with your line manager and contact Carrie Bodman on 02921 847834 or carrie.bodman@wales.nhs.uk.

The next session is scheduled for Wednesday, June 18.
Leaner and Fitter

Leaner and Fitter is all about making sure the UHB is running safe, streamlined and effective services which make best use of the available resources, whilst providing the optimum level of care for patients.

In recent months, the work of the Leaner and Fitter team has evolved to reflect some of the key areas in our recently approved Integrated Medium Term Plan (IMTP).

To give you a flavour of what this means, here are a few examples:

- The Strategic Bed Plan for 2014/15 is remaining focussed on the key objective of “Right Patient, Right Place”. Significant progress has already been made in terms of identifying where the further opportunities are in terms of best use of our beds. Importantly, a key part of this year’s plan is also to ensure that we start to consider moving our inpatient services out of hospitals where the buildings are old and not of the standard in which we would want to provide care for our patients.

At the same time, there is a strong focus across all our services to ensure that, wherever possible, we are putting the patient at the centre of our clinical care, and not simply moving them between different services. This is building on the growing work that is being undertaken jointly with the UHB’s Local Authority and Third Sector Partners, particularly through the developing framework for older people.

- The first phase of the Medical Productivity workstream set out to ensure the UHB has a robust central log for consultant job planning – which currently contains 84% of all consultant job plans. It also supports directorates by providing them with relevant tools to ensure we are deploying our workforce in the most efficient way. The second phase started this month, which aims to get us as close to 100% as possible and will expand to include job planning processes for career grade doctors and dentists.

- Nursing Productivity, Therapies and Medical Productivity are working together to look at the best way to scope roles. This will consider our workforce more holistically, looking at a patients’ pathway and who provides care across that pathway to ensure there is no duplication of roles.

- The Medicines Management workstream is continuing to develop a ‘home of best practice’ information management software tool. This will bring together prescribing and formulary guidance in one place, and support prescribers in adhering to agreed pathways for medicines management. This month saw the launch of the seventh edition of the Good Prescribing Guide.

- The additional CEPOD (emergency access theatre) pilot is working well, and we are continuing to identify how we can run our theatres in the most efficient way. We have almost halved the time to theatre for appendectomies plus reduced the length of stay for these procedures by half a day.

Getting on involved and finding out more

We are continuing to host monthly Food for Thought lunches with the Chief Executive and members of the Executive and senior leadership teams. Originally, staff were chosen at random to attend a Food for Thought lunch, but due to their popularity we are receiving requests from staff to come along. If you are interested in attending one of the sessions with the Chief Executive, please contact Leanne Coburn - leanne.coburn@wales.nhs.uk or 029 20 746885. If you would like to attend, please come along and share your ideas and thoughts.

In the meantime, keep your feedback coming to organisingforexcellence@wales.nhs.uk

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