

Hospital putting patient safety first

Wards across Pilgrim Hospital, Boston have taken on a new challenge to improve safety and reduce patient harm.

The hospital recently embarked upon the Patient Safety Express programme - to help them develop a safety culture and to reduce the number of incidents in which patients experience avoidable harm.

It started with an event where ward staff were invited to find out more about what they can do to ensure they offer the best and safest possible care to patients.

They helped to identify changes that can be made so that they can work in their areas to reduce harm to patients from venous thromboembolism (VTE), falls, pressure ulcers and urinary tract infections (UTIs). They are also being given guidance on how they can help to spot the signs of patients deteriorating so that they can help as soon as possible.

Patient Safety Manager for United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust, Dr Steve Cross, said the programme is one of a raft of changes being brought in at Pilgrim hospital to improve safety and get staff involved in improving patient care.

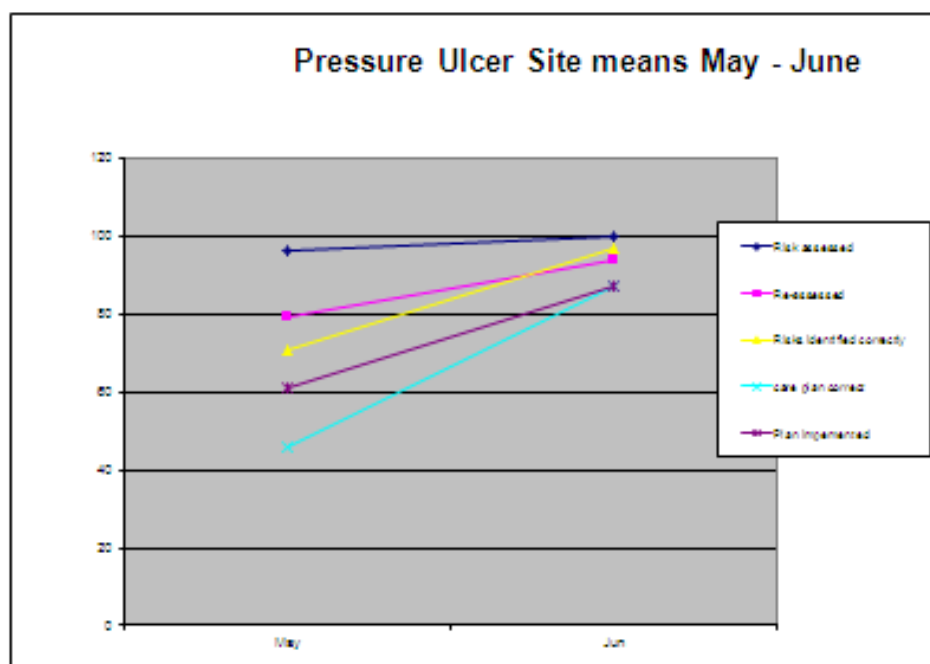
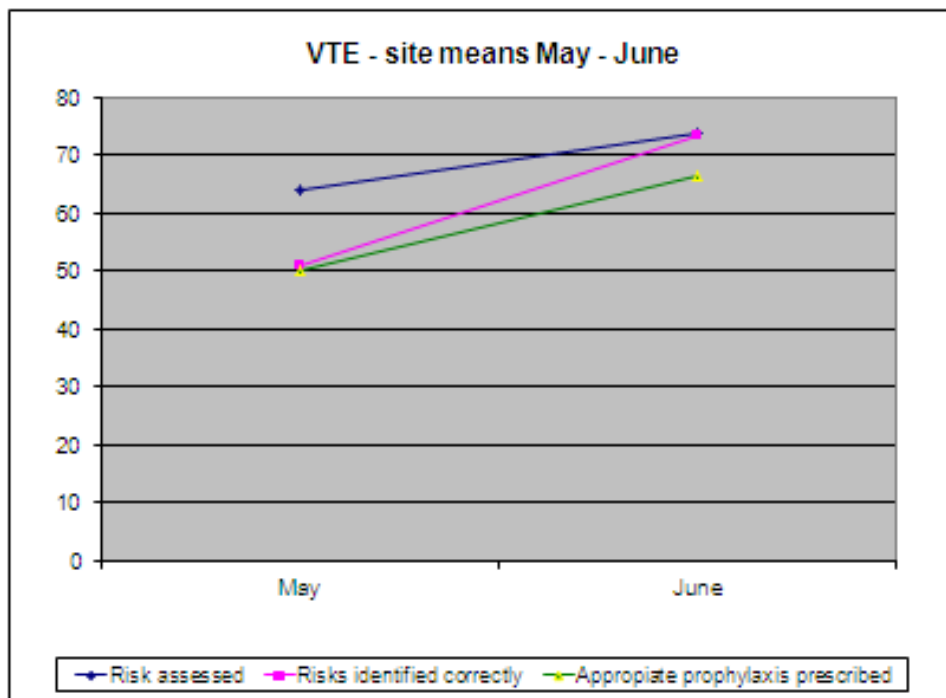
“This programme is about ensuring that we are developing a safety culture at the hospital. It has started with us measuring how we are doing to begin with on managing VTE, falls and so on, and then looking at work we can put in place to improve,” he said.

“We are providing staff with education and training on safety behaviours, expectations and standards and on the clinical background to harm as a basis.

“From now on, we will be regularly measuring our performance on preventing harm to patients in the areas identified and will apply improvements as we go along. This could include re-designing the way we work in some areas, looking at improvement cycles and ensuring staff are engaged.

“This is a brilliant programme. It is based on real change at the front line of patient care. I know it will make a difference.”

The graphs below demonstrate the improvements that have already been made in staff assessing the risk to patients of venous thromboembolism, pressure ulcers and falls in the past two months:



Falls - site means May - June

