

Reducing Single Use Plastic & Better Working Practice

DEPARTMENT: Abbey, Otter and Torridge Wards

TEAM MEMBERS' NAMES:

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AIMS:

- Reduce waste by replacing disposable plastic items with reusable ones.
- Order food and drink in bulk instead of smaller sizes to reduce costs and packaging.
- Reduce linen use within the wards and correctly use red and white laundry skips to prevent unnecessary usage, reducing overuse of both water and laundry chemicals.
- The amount of linen stored on ward has also been reduced, freeing up the launderette's capacity for contract jobs which creates revenue for the Trust.
- Optimise use of equipment in side rooms (infection control rooms) to prevent adding stock which would need to be disposed of once the patient has been moved.
- Reduce the use of suction kits in the infection control rooms as these are costly to replace and are frequently unused but must be replaced once each patient moves rooms. This requires discussions with the Innovations team to develop a new product or a method of reusing the suction kit.
- Introduce fact of the day to encourage patients out of their beds which will improve recovery rates.



“ Single use plastics have been replaced with reusable items. ”



ACHIEVEMENTS

- Improvement in recycling through education and behaviour change in staff.
- Bulk orders of food and drink are in place for two wards.
- A reduction in plastics has been achieved through replacing plastic spoons and cups with reusable items
- The team is carefully monitoring the red and white laundry usage and identifying where laundry is not being processed correctly.
- Implementation of a Best Practice Linen Guide will be raised at the Ward Housekeepers forum.
- A fact is researched by the team and added to the notice board each day which is prompting discussion among staff and patients.



CHALLENGES

- Engagement and encouragement of staff can be challenging, however the team have been working to overcome this.
- Improvement in recycling is difficult as it is dictated by the waste contract which the team has limited control over.
- Investigations into the suction kit requires support from external companies to alter the product or to develop a new process.

“ Education and behavioural change in staff have made a positive difference. ”