

# Lead Nurse for Renal Services and Deputy Director for Surgery and Renal Services

Just a short update on the current challenging issues in the Trust.

Over the last 3 months we have experienced organisational changes to the various Directorates within the Trust. Renal Services and General Surgery Directorate's are now one. We are still part of the Planned Care Division.

The main focus, as I am sure most people are aware within the Trust and indeed the NHS, is to manage our budget and reduce our deficit whilst still producing the best care delivery that we can, with the patient at the centre of the planning of our care delivery programme.

The Trust will be continuing to look at how we can become efficient, cost effective and still deliver excellent clinical care and indeed as a Directorate, we will also be adjusting how we deliver care. We will approach this by frequent audit within our Renal areas, involving patients, using methods such as questionnaires.

I would at this point like to thank all of our staff for their commitment and hard work over the past few months and also patients, carers and other groups and individuals that have given charitable donations to enable our Renal Unit to grow from strength to strength.

Dr Wai Tse has informed you of the excellent projects we are involved in with our colleagues from other Trusts across the South West Peninsula, working together within the Peninsula Renal Network in order to move forward and achieve the Renal NSF Targets.

I would just like to add I am currently working with the Trust to investigate if we can pilot a project for transport provision for our patients, as this is an area that we can look to improve and would be beneficial to our patient groups.

So watch this space. Hopefully I'll be able to update you all in the next newsletter!

## Renal National Service Framework NSF Part 1 (Dialysis and Transplantation)

Adoption of standards will be a major step forward in bringing standards of care up to those taken for granted in other European countries and would transform the lives of patients and their families. We are working in conjunction with the Peninsula Renal Network looking at satellite dialysis facilities in Devon and Cornwall. The priorities are satellite units in Torbay and East Devon. A planning manager has been appointed for the Torbay project and it is hoped that this facility will be built by next summer (2007). Other potential areas being examined are East Cornwall and Sherford valley development at Plympton/Ivybridge. We are compliant with the other requirements. We are addressing the timely preparation for dialysis, the ability to provide patient choice and have achieved the NICE recommendations on immunosuppressive therapy.

## NSF Part 2 (Chronic Kidney Disease, Acute Renal Failure and End of Life Care)

Part 2 supports health by promoting better self care and treatment in a community setting or in people's homes to avoid hospitalisation wherever possible.

The much greater emphasis on patient choice and treatment close to where patients live is very welcome. The multi-disciplinary workforce, including specially trained doctors, nurses, dieticians, pharmacists and social workers, are committed to developing new, better and more efficient ways to work with patients to manage their disease. Our Renal Unit is working closely with other Units, the Peninsula Renal Network, GPs and primary care trusts to put in place the structures needed to deliver the standards set out in the NSF. We have held a number of GP information evenings in Cornwall, Torbay and Plymouth. Our last meeting was held in July and we had over 45 GPs and nurses attending with excellent feedback. More will be held later this year.

## Transplant Co-ordinators

The South West Transplant Centre continues with its commitment to increase the amount of organs available for transplantation. The Live Donor Programme has continued to thrive with an increase in live transplants of 80% in 2005-2006 from 2004-2005. The deceased donor rate increased by 175% for April 2006-June 2006 compared with the same time period for 2005.

This success could be due to the fact that people now have more choice to donate through the live donor programme and through the non heart beating donor programme.

An important date for organ donation and transplantation is the 1st September 2006. On this date, the new Human Tissue Act of 2004 comes into play. This act will make the wishes of a deceased person "paramount". Therefore, if a person had consented to organ donation in life by either carrying a donor card or registering their wishes on the NHS Organ Donor Register, then their family will only be able to override their wishes in exceptional circumstances. The Organ Donor Register line is 0845 60 60 400.

The new act will also make it legal for a person, in life, to donate a kidney to a stranger; "altruistic donation", and for the "paired exchange" of kidneys between couples who have been found to be blood group Incompatible. For further information on either Altruistic Donation or Paired Exchange please contact Sarah Stacey, the Live Donor Transplant Co-ordinator on 01752 517767.



Through the hard work of all the team, the South West as a region has the highest percentage of its population on the Organ Donor register; 28% compared to 22% nationally.

Julie Hicks has become a permanent member of the transplant team. The transplant nurses have now taken over the role of transplant assessment from the transplant coordinators. Up until recently, the coordinators have taken care of matters relating to patients whilst they are being assessed for transplantation, and whilst they are on the waiting list. It is felt that with the transplant nurses now being involved with patients from the start of their transplant journey, the service will become more seamless and patient friendly. Julie can be contacted on 01752 792916.

## Annual Transplant Day

The South West Transplant Centre is again holding a regional Annual Transplant Day. The date is 29th September 2006 and the event will be held at the St Mellion Golf and Country Hotel in Cornwall.

This year's programme includes a guest speaker from Harvard Medical School, Boston. Dr Colm Magee is an expert in the field of management of highly sensitised patients. These are the patients that have developed high level of antibodies caused through pregnancy in women, previous transplants and blood transfusion. We are already lucky to have Dr Mark Denton who worked alongside Dr Magee in Boston and will be initiating the de-sensitisation of selected patients.

There will also be a presentation by Mr Nizam Mamode from Guys who will be discussing Laparoscopic Donor Nephrectomy for Live Kidney donation. This method may contribute to shorter hospital stays following donor nephrectomy and increased patient comfort for selected live donors.

The day is aimed at all health professionals working in the field of Renal Medicine and Transplantation.

## Website

The South West Transplant Centre is due to launch its new transplant web site at the annual transplant day on 29 September 2006.

The web site has been developed with the cooperation of the southwestern renal units and the marketing company Open.

Apart from providing professional data and information the site will provide renal patient and carer information with facts and figures, places for relatives to stay locally, places to dine out and places to visit whilst not attending the hospital or visiting.

The web site will also portray a patient journey from diagnosis to transplantation, which will contain patient testimonials of their real life journeys.

The site has been designed to be patient friendly, educational, interesting and to help patients and their carers understand the journey they are to embark on.

The web site will at a latter date contain increased information on Haemodialysis, CAPD and other renal specialities.

The web site address is [www.swtransplant.com](http://www.swtransplant.com)

## Renal Patient View

Individualised online information for renal patients

Would you like to:

- Find out your latest test results?
- Read online information about your kidney condition and treatment?
- Read letters about you from the renal unit?
- Read about renal diets?
- Check the Transplant list?
- Find any other information about kidney disease?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, take a look at Renal Patient View

### How does Renal view work

Renal Patient View takes information from your renal unit computer system and links it to useful explanations about your kidney condition and its treatment. It shows blood test results, clinic letters (which are not our system at present, but we are working towards this). Renal patient view will be updated at least once a day.

### Who can read it

You can, your GP can, and staff from your renal unit can. Also, you may share your password with anyone you want. So you could show it to relatives, even in other parts of the country or world. When you are seen at another clinic, or at an unfamiliar hospital or surgery, you could show it to staff there, even if you are on holiday.

### Is it safe

It is very safe. It uses security systems like the ones used for Internet shopping. If you think someone may have discovered your password, you can change it at any time. Your information only goes onto Renal Patient View at your request, and you can have all of your information removed if you change your mind. But if you don't want to use this system, it will not affect the records held by your renal unit.

### How do I join?

This renal unit is participating centre for Renal Patient View. To receive a username and password please contact Wendy Colwell on 01752 792464, or leave your name and e-mail address if you have one with the Clinic Nurse.

### Where can I find out more?

Try these two websites

<http://www.renalpatientview.org> - click on list of units on this page to see that your unit is included.

<http://www.renal.org/rixg> - has information about the project