

News Release

19 February 2008

Praise for 'excellent' endoscopy unit

Dorset County Hospital's endoscopy staff have received high praise for their exceptional standards from an independent review body.

The Joint Advisory Group on Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (JAG) visited the hospital's endoscopy unit at the end of last year and in its recently published accreditation report, highlights the 'excellent team working, excellent staff morale and excellent practice.'

JAG is a body sponsored and funded by several Royal Colleges which was set up to define the standards for the training of endoscopists and the units they work in.

Dorset County Hospital's endoscopy team perform nearly 7,000 endoscopies each year for examinations and therapeutic procedures of the oesophagus (gullet), stomach, duodenum (part of the small intestine), biliary system, colon, bladder and lung. An endoscope is a flexible tube of varying lengths with a video chip on the end which allows a live video image to be seen on a screen.

The JAG report on the service praises the unit's clinical quality and safety, as well as the privacy, dignity and comfort experienced by patients.

The report concluded: "This is an experienced, well motivated nursing team who are encouraged to feed back about all aspects of the service.

"It is a very good training environment with an effective, empowered overall training lead and enlightened surgical attitudes towards endoscopy training."

The only room for improvement highlighted in the report is a need for more space: "This is a small unit which the team has used to its absolute maximum with some very clever, innovative use of space – for example, a decontamination room in a small space that is a model to which others should aspire. However, space is at a premium and the unit and its excellent staff deserve better."

Plans are already in the pipeline for an interim expansion to the department, with work due to start in April and finish in July. This will provide better staff facilities, a clinic area and an interview room to enhance patient confidentiality.

Longer-term plans are being developed for a new build department providing space for the service to expand.

Endoscopy unit sister Pauline Matthews said: "Achieving this high standard for our accreditation is due to years of consistent commitment from the whole team putting the quality of experience for the patient at the forefront of everything we do within the resources we have available."

Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust's Chief Executive Jan Bergman added: "The endoscopy team provide a first class service for our patients and I am delighted that this report gives them the credit they deserve.

"We recognise that the department would benefit from more space to develop the service further and extension plans are being drawn up for a new larger, purpose-built unit."

ENDS

For more information about this news release please contact Communications Manager Susie Palmer on 01305 254683 or susie.palmer@dchft.nhs.uk or Pauline Matthews on 01305 255231