

A summary of patient experience at London North West London University Healthcare NHS Trust sites over a two-year period

March 2019

Introduction

London North West London University Healthcare NHS Trust (LNWUHT) is the major provider of hospital services to Brent residents. It has recently undergone an inspection by the regulator CQC and was found that its use of resources was inadequate. It is within this context that this report has been prepared by Healthwatch Brent (HWB) mindful of its duty as set out in the Health and Social Care Act (2012) to capture the voice and listen to the experiences of patients using NHS services.

HWB has an established and good working relationship with the Nursing Directorate of the Trust who has demonstrated its desire to learn from patient experiences and has welcomed the independence of HWB.

This summary provides an overview of patient experience with services provided by the Trust. The Trust has already provided responses to our individual visits which has been recorded previously. A summary of the Trust's reaction and response to our recommendations is attached in Appendix 1.

Methodology

HWB visit one hospital ward or outpatients department at approximately monthly intervals with a member of staff asking a set of eight questions at the point of care. We have spoken with 78 patients across a broad range of wards and shared their responses with the Trust's Nursing Directorate and in particular the Head of Patient Experience who have responded both to comments and to our recommendations. The results and questions are summarized in Fig 1. In addition to the questions, some patients explained their views which is captured in Figure 2.

The responses have also been presented to the Trust's Patient Experience Committee for information and sharing of learning.

All HWB reports, the visit reports are shared with Healthwatch England, the Care Quality Commission, and published on the HWB website. <u>http://www.healthwatchbrent.co.uk/hospital</u>. Additionally, these reports are shared with the Quality directorate of NHS Brent CCG.

Findings

Figure 1 summarises the distribution of views received. Over 72% of patients expressed satisfaction with their hospital experience, although a small minority had a poor experience.



An interrogation of the responses to the individual questions are summarized in Figures 2-9.

Emerging themes from patients included commentary that patients felt that they got on well with staff, but more importantly, they felt that staff got on well together and shared a positive working environment. It would be useful to compare this perception with the publication of the Trust's Quality Account which will be published later this year.

The poor comments made by patients referred to treatment received from night-duty staff. Alarmingly, one patient commented about an aggressive member of staff. This information was reported to the Head of Patient Experience who agreed to investigate the matter. It was not clear whether a formal complaint had been made to the hospital or whether the Patient Liaison Service had been contacted. Concern was raised that patients felt hurried to understand and process information about procedures, after-care or follow-up information.

Whilst acknowledging the pressure that staff are under, some patients expressed a desire that they would have welcomed some refreshments, television or reading material whilst they were awaiting beds or being admitted for procedures.

There were some isolated comments relating to the cleanliness of the toilets, inadequate heating in waiting rooms and poor signage.





Conclusions and Recommendations

Patients attending hospital services within the Trust are overwhelmingly positive about the services provided and often commended staff on their attitude, providing good service, and ensuring they are kept well informed throughout their journey.

There were several concerns raised which can be thought of as improvement objectives that the Trust has responded to with actions. These are detailed in Appendix 1.

The Trust now posts a 'You Said, We did' summary on the notice board of the ward visited.

If there are any recommendations that arise from this summary it would be to:

- Continue to inform staff that their service is appreciated by patients and their carers
- Ensure staff are given adequate reminders of the need to maintain their high standard of service delivery with every patient
- Ensure waiting areas are well heated and have adequate amenities for refreshments and entertainment

About Healthwatch

Healthwatch Brent is part of a national network led by Healthwatch England, which was established through the Health and Social Care Act in 2012, to give service users of health and social care services a powerful voice both locally and nationally. We are the independent voice for people's views on Brent services, both good and bad. We listen to local people and feedback patient experience and liaise with local commissioners and decision makers, in order to improve services.

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Appendix 1

Healthwatch Brent recommendations to LNWUHT hospital visits, and the Hospital Trust's responses Updated March 2019

Hospital department	Healthwatch Brent recommendations following site visit to gather patient experiences	LNWUHT response	LNWUHT update Oct 2018 –
Abbey Ward,			What has changed?
Central	How do you rate the following?		
Middlesex Hospital		1	
Oct 2018	4	3	
	2 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		
	discussions treated with my treatment show how to call access after wo	Overall how buld you rate the service	
	■ Excellent ■ Very good ■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor		
	 To praise staff for positive feedback received It is understandable that Abbey Ward receive a lot of referrals, is there a way to reduce the length of time patients are waiting 	Thank you for this helpful feedback. • To praise staff	
	 after being referred by their GP? Keep medical trolleys away from front reception desk 	for positive feedback	
	 Do not use a bin to hold open a fire door 	received	

All	feedback
(bo	th positive
	I negative) is
	red with staff
at h	nandovers
and	l ward
me	etings. We
	o display
	dback in the
stat	ff room and
	the notice
boa	ard.
• It is	
unc	lerstandable
tha	t Abbey Ward
	eive a lot of
refe	errals, is there
a w	ay to reduce
the	length of
	e patients are
	ting after
	ng referred
	their GP?
	Trust is
	lertaking a
	nand and
	acity review
	ervices that
	under
	ssure to
del	iver against

national
standards. The
Trust is being
supported by
NHS I in this
endeavor.
Meanwhile, in
order to free up
capacity for
urgent referrals,
the use of other
resources
including
outsourcing or
routine
procedures is
being pursued
for those
services where
there is a
concern that
they may not be
able to meet the
various national
standards for
assessment and
treatment
Keep medical
trolleys away
from front
reception desk

	Medicine trolleys need to stay near their allocated nurse's station. We will review the feasibility of relocating each of the trolleys to the far end of the nurse's station so that they are away from the reception desk area.
	 Do not use a bin to hold pen a fire door We will address this directly with the team to ensure that this does not happen.



on the notice
board.
Ensure patients
are able to
absorb all
information
being explained
to them after
procedures.
May need to
follow up with
the patient to
ensure they
have
understood
what was
explained to
them and repeat
if necessary
Staff are
continuously
reminded to
ensure that the
information
received by
patients is fully
understood, and
that they are
mindful of
medical jargon.
We have shared
this report and

encouraged our
staff to ensure
they allow
enough time
when having
these
conversations
and that they
confirm with
patients/relative
s that they have
fully understood
what has been
discussed.
Check the toilets
more often to
ensure they are
clean for the
patients
We will ensure
that the
necessary
checks, cleans
and spot checks
are carried out
each day in
accordance with

 our service standards. Due to the frailty of some of the patients each ward should have its own toilets
Due to the frailty of some of the patients each ward should have its
frailty of some of the patients each ward should have its
frailty of some of the patients each ward should have its
of the patients each ward should have its
each ward should have its
should have its
own tonets
We acknowledge
that the lack of
toilets in some
bays means that
some patients
have to access
these facilities in
the corridor. As
part of our
capital review,
we will be
looking at this
and planning
how we can help
deliver
additional toilet
facilities and if
this is at all
possible.
Patient Catering

Frederick Salmon Ward
has a bespoke menu,
designed specifically for
this patient group's
particular dietary
requirements. The
menu is reviewed every
six months by the
dietetic team
responsible for this
patient group, in
conjunction with our
Service Provider
Medirest's Company
Dietician and food
production unit
management. In
addition, feedback from
patients is also taken
into account. Menus are
changed every six
months, in April and
October of each year.
The menu items are all
from the Steamplicity
range. A small team of
"menu takers" are
dedicated to inputting
each patient's meal
choice onto an
electronic tablet, which
communicates directly

with the patients' Central Kitchen. We are ensuring that every one of these "menu takers" is fully trained in the specific menu requirements of these patients and is able to respond to any questions relating to menu choice. We also encourage the "menu takers" to fully engage with patients, so that if there are any issues, then we can arrange for
with patients, so that if
then we can arrange for
a member of the catering management
team to visit the ward to resolve any problems
in a timely manner.



		I
	supervision and	
	development. It is our	
	expectation that	
	patients receive a high	
	standard of care at all	
	times, and that	
	our staff provide this in	
	a polite, responsive,	
	caring and professional	
	manner. These	
	expectations are	
	reinforced to staff	
	throughout the Trust	
	and any reports that	
	staff have not behaved	
	in a polite or acceptable	
	manner are taken	
	seriously and addressed	
	with the staff member	
	concerned. As a result	
	of this feedback, in	
	which individual staff	
	members have not been	
	identified, the team on	
	Gaskell ward have been	
	reminded of the Trust	
	values and our	
	expectations in relation	
	to behaviour and	
	attitude.	
L		

Ensure that
patients are
aware that the
night staff are
just outside
their rooms and
cannot sit in
their rooms as
the lights need
to be switched
off.
Staff have been
encouraged to take a few
minutes before
they start their medication
rounds and
observation
rounds, to speak
to their patients
individually
wherever
possible, as the
night activities
are too short
before patients
settle for bed.
At handover
takeover time,
nursing staff
have been

news in deal to
reminded to
ensure that they
show each
individual
patient how to
use the call bell
system.
Have better
communication
between clinics
so patients are
not left for
several hours
after receiving
treatment at a
different clinic.
This is not our
usual practice
and should not
have happened.
We have a clear
pathway for
portering
response times.
This report has
been shared
with staff and
they have been
reminded to
ensure that
follow up is

made when
patients have
been off the
ward for a
considerable
amount of time.
Give patients an
option to be
pushed or
pulled whilst in
the wheelchair,
but ensure the
decision is
explained to
them.
All patients
should be
pushed and not
pulled when
being
transported in a
wheelchair. This
is for safety
reasons and also
to ensure that
we are properly
engaging with
our patients. All
porters and
patient transport
staff are

instructed and monitored by their supervisory teams about this. • Make better use
of the day room
and offer
patients the opportunity to
use it to talk to
other patients if
they would like
and a chance to
get away from their beds for a
change of
scenery and to
watch TV.
Staff have been
reminded to
encourage nations and
patients and relatives to use
the day room.



	door when giving
	assistance
	We were surprised to
	read this as patient's
	privacy and dignity is
	highly valued. Your
	findings have been
	discussed with all staff
	at daily handovers as a
	reminder.
	One patient
	received a phone at
	9.30pm to be at TAU
	for 7.30am the
	following morning.
	Would it be
	possible to give
	patients a bit more
	notice for their
	appointment?
	We give as much
	notice as possible for
	standard admissions.
	There is also a standby
	system where
	appointments are
	offered as short
	notice, when they
	have become
	available due to
	cancellations.
1	

 Have water dispensers available in both waiting rooms Explore the possibilities of having
a tea and coffee station available for carers as some of them are there for
a good part of the day We have requested quotes for vending machines and water
fountains Keep TVs in both waiting rooms switched on
We were also surprised to read that the TVs were not all on: they are usually left on all day. Staff
have been reminded to check on this.



questions.



and translations to	*Patients arriving into
patients and families.	our care have all been
We were pleased to	appropriately dressed
hear that response to	for transfer between
call bells was good	hospitals.
during the day but	
concerned that two of	
the eight patients had	
long waits at night. This	
report and the impact	
on the patients who had	
to wait has been	
discussed with the staff.	
The Head of Nursing for	
Willesden is conducting	
random call bell	
response time audits to	
make sure that these	
were isolated incidents.	
We were saddened to	
hear that a patient had	
been transferred to	
Willesden without the	
proper warm clothes.	
This has been raised	
with staff at Northwick	
to remind them to make	
sure that patients are	
given appropriate	
clothes when they leave	
the hospital.	



communicate them with	and interviewing. The
patients and families.	ward manager is
We were disappointed	currently in the
to hear concerns about	process of
cleanliness. A new	interviewing again.
housekeeping role has	*The ward manager
been developed and is	and sister have
being advertised in the	recently received
New Year. A key part of	"HEART" awards. This
this role will be to	is also helping to instil
ensure that the ward is	the caring attitude
kept tidy and clean.	that is expected from
There are regular	all our staff on Evelyn
cleaning inspections and	ward.
the score for October	
was low at 94%. This	
has improved since then	
with scores of 98% in	
August, 97% in	
September and 98% in	
December. Cleanliness	
is one of the domains	
reviewed weekly as part	
of the matron's	
walkabout and is usually	
good. The condemned	
chairs have been	
removed and	
commodes are replaced	
regularly.	
We were pleased to see	
that most patients	

reported positive
relationships with staff.
This matches the results
from the weekly
'Perfect ward'
inspection where nearly
100% of patient say that
they are treated with
care and compassion.
We have shared this
report with the staff
and reminded them of
the positive impact of
politeness and kindness.
The ward is keenly
aware of the pressure
on beds, but patient
safety comes first. On
the day of the visit,
there was a patient who
needed to be in
isolation but there were
no side rooms available
at that time. One was
created later that day to
allow the bay to be
cleaned and opened up.

Jonson Ward, Northwick Park Hospital	How do you rate the following?		
Sep 2017	5 4 3 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		
	* To ensure patients are always provided with their medications regardless of the time they arrive at Jonson Ward. * To transfer patients quicker from A&E to Jonson Ward so they are not left waiting on a trolley for 15 hours without an update to let them know when they will be taken to Jonson Ward.	As a specialist ward looking after complex patients many of whom are very unwell, there is constant pressure on the Jonson ward beds. The team is working hard to ensure good discharge practices to free up beds for patients being transferred from ED so that long waits can be avoided.	We are continuing to work to these standards.

Referrals from other
hospitals are proactively
discussed and managed.
These patients are
transferred directly to
Jonson bypassing ED. It
is good practice for
repatriated patients to
be sent and received
within daytime hours.
The patient who did not
receive their medication
overnight was an
isolated incident, but
was escalated and
discussed. If patients
arrive out of hours, the
on call doctor will be
bleeped to make sure
their clerking and
medications are
prioritised.
phonused.

Ambulatory Care, Northwick	How do you rate the following	?	
Park Hospital	10 9		
	9		
	8 7		
	6	6	
	4 4	3	
	3	3	
	2	1	
		ess after Overall how would you	rate
	with dignity and respect about treatment and service being referred	the service	
	🔳 Excellent 📕 Very good 📕 Good 📕 Fair 📕 P	oor	
		*	
	* To ensure that patients are made aware on how to ask for assistance if needed.	* To ensure that	*We still have a Healthcare
	* To provide a rough estimate of how long patients may be waiting, after	patients are made aware on how to ask for	assistant/Housekeepe
	they have been seen for the first time and waiting for the results in the	assistance if needed.	r who is responsible
	waiting area.	There is a Healthcare	for looking after
	* Staff should introduce themselves to patients when delivering	assistant who is	patients in the waiting
	treatment.	responsible for looking	area.
	* Some patients did not know if they had a Treatment Plan. For the	after patients in the	*We also have regular
	purposes of this report, we would like to clarify whether this is	waiting area. A sign has	comfort rounds at
	something the patient should be aware of and contribute to after their	been put up with this	least 3 times a day
	first visit.	information and asking	offering refreshments
		patients to ask the	and updates. A sign is
		receptionist if they need	now up in the waiting
		anything.	area, asking patients

* To provide a rough	to ack the recontionist
* To provide a rough	to ask the receptionist
estimate of how long	if they need anything.
patients may be waiting,	*A patient leaflet has
after they have been	been made available
seen for the first time	in the waiting area.
and waiting for the	This explains how the
results in the waiting	unit works and details
area.	the varying reasons
Staff are expected to	why patients may
keep patients informed	need to wait.
about the next steps in	*Staff introduce
their treatment	themselves and this is
including how long they	monitored/audited
are likely to wait. They	weekly on the
will trial giving patients	Matron's walkabout
a note about this too.	(part of the Perfect
* Staff should introduce	Ward app).
themselves to patients	*We are constantly
when delivering	trying to improve the
treatment.	way in which we
We agree. This	communicate and
feedback has been	have a new IT system
shared with staff and	which allows us to
they have been	issue clear discharge
reminded to offer this	plans.
basic courtesy.	*There is now a sign
* Some patients did not	in the waiting area
know if they had a	saying: "Do you know
Treatment Plan. For the	your treatment plan?
purposes of this report,	If not, please ask the
we would like to clarify	Nursing/Medical staff
, whether this is	

		something the patient should be aware of and contribute to after their first visit. All patients do have a treatment plan and this is discussed with them. The matron has put up a sign saying: 'Do you know your treatment plan? If not, please ask the Nursing/Medical staff who will be happy to discuss it with you.	who will be happy to discuss it with you".
Fred Salmon Ward, St Marks Hospital Jul 2017	 To ensure all PCA wires are connected at all times To ensure that patients' medication is taken at the right time and to assist them if needed To provide transport information to patients who have travelled from a long distance so they become aware of their travel options once discharged 	Thank you for this helpful feedback. It has been discussed with the team. * To ensure all PCA wires are connected at all times. These should of course be kept connected to ensure that batteries are charged to allow patients to move around. Nurses should check this as part of their handover and have been reminded to do so.	*We have reinforced and continuously promote bedside nursing handover for best practice. We have not had any further concerns regarding this. *Medicine management is discussed during the safety huddle where staff are also reminded of safety and any incidents

* To ensure that	relating to medicine
patients' medication is	are shared.
taken at the right time	*We have since
and to assist them if	recruited two
needed	discharge
We were pleased that	coordinators. Their
the staff responded	role includes
once this matter had	communicating with
been brought to their	patients and families
attention. As above,	regarding issues
nurses are responsible	relating to discharge
for making sure that	(including
medication is taken on	transportation).
time.	Matron Rounds are
* To provide transport	completed regularly
information to patients	and the team feel
who have travelled from	reassured in talking
a long distance so they	with patients and
become aware of their	relatives that these
travel options once	recommendations are
discharged	being met.
We were sorry to hear	
that patients were	
anxious about how they	
would get home if they	
lived a long way away.	
The discharge	
coordinator on the ward	
had retired and her	
replacement had not	
started at the time of	
this visit. We now have	

		a new discharge coordinator who will make sure that patients are involved in their discharge planning and to respond to this sort of anxiety.	
Dowland Ward	How do you rate the following?		
Northwick Park Hospital June 2017	5 4 4 3 3 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 I feel involved in discussions around care I feel I have been treated with dignity treatment plan call for and respect I am clear assistance Have you been Service is easy Overall how to being referred the service assistance • Excellent • Very good • Good • Fair • Poor		
	 * To explore ways that enable and ensure night staff to respond more quickly to patients when they call for assistance and that there is always a call button available whilst plugged in. * To introduce a better signage from main reception to Dowland Ward, for an easy and quick access. * To consider refurbishing the ward looks especially their bathrooms. 	Thank you for this helpful visit and feedback. We were pleased to see that patients felt involved in their care and were treated with dignity and respect. The ward was indeed in need of refurbishment at the time of the visit. The bathrooms are being decorated and the	*Refurbishment works have been completed. *Staff grades were revived on night duty and changed to 3 trained nurses on duty; Ward sisters also undertake night duties to review standards. Staff are regularly reminded of

ward re-painted in	answering call bells as
August.	promptly as possible.
We were sorry to hear	This is monitored and
that patients were not	recorded as part of
always able to get the	our quarterly EAT
attention of staff	assessments.
especially at night, and	
that call bells were not	
always available. The	
matron investigated the	
example that was raised	
and is confident that	
this is not the usual	
experience on the ward.	
That said, the matron	
and ward manager are	
monitoring this	
carefully.	
A Sister will be	
allocated on to night	
duty on some shifts to	
monitor standards of	
nursing care. The	
Clinical Ward Manager	
checks in with patients	
every morning to	
ensure that there are no	
concerns.	
The matron now	
undertakes weekly	
audits using a 'perfect	
ward app' which checks	

of quality, safety and patient experience, including the accessibility of call bells. Since the visit in June, there have been no similar reports. It is difficult to find Dowland Ward. Following your visit, we created a set of easy to follow directions. These are available on the ward so that visitors can share them with other people who plan to come and at the main reception. Staff also have copies on the ward so they can give directions by phone. The Trus is aware that signage needs to be improved and is in discussions with a wayfinding consultant and is exploring technological solutions. Meanwhile there is a team of wayfinding	[
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Meanwhile there is a team of wayfinding		technological solutions.
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		volunteers to help guide

		visitors to their destinations.	
Phlebotomy Northwick Park Hospital Oct 2016	 What would you like to have more of? Water dispenser: a number of patients would like to have a water dispenser in the waiting area Seats in the waiting area: Patients said that when the clinic gets busy, more seats would be appreciate to be able to sit down Seats: Seats in the waiting area could be more comfortable Television: Having a TV for patients to look at will help pass the time, whether it is showing medical advice or showing the news with subtitles What would you like to have less of? Less waiting time. Patients said that there are days when the wait is not too long but there are times when you have to wait for an hour Less expensive parking charges. Patients would like to have some clarity how much to pay at times when they do not know how busy the clinic will be Time with staff: A few patients would like to feel less rushed with staff 	The team has discussed the observations and were disappointed that patients had not been kept properly informed of delays on the day of the visit. They have reminded the whole team to make sure that the admin staff are kept informed of the reasons for any delays, and the admin staff to make sure that patients are kept informed of any delays. Although car parking charges are outside of the service's specific remit, the Trust offers a range of concessions to make it easier for our patients and visitors. In line with Department of Health guidance, discounted passes are available for patients and families who need to visit our hospitals	*We continue to ensure that there are 5 staff on duty during peak times. A member of the senior management team makes announcements advising patients of any long waiting times and reasons for delays. We also redeploy staff where possible. *We have a working TV in place and a water dispenser in the phlebotomy room. *Unfortunately we have still not been able to source additional chairs for the waiting area. However staff are monitoring this and when additional seating is required staff are able to

regularly or for long	source this from other
periods. Three, five and	areas.
seven day passes are	
available as well as	
reductions for renal	
patients. Free parking is	
available for Blue Badge	
holders (when parked in	
a designated bay).	
In order to minimise	
waiting times in the	
phlebotomy clinic, there	
are now always 5 staff	
on duty. Ticket	
machines are put out at	
7.30 in response to	
other patient feedback.	
A television has been	
installed and a second	
more accessible water	
filter is being put in	
place.	
At present, the team has	
been unable to secure	
additional or new funds	
for more chairs but this	
is something that could	
be reviewed again at a	
future date.	

Physiotherap	Patient experience with the service:	The clinical director of	*Ongoing.
y Central Middlesex Hospital Oct 2016	 <u>Treatment plan</u>: patients are aware of their treatment plan, feel supported, and improvement measures are taken into consideration when suggested by patients. Patients learn about their treatment progress at the appointment session. <u>Service information</u>: Physio gives patients verbal information as well as leaflets <u>Patient involvement</u>: Patients report to have one-to-one in-depth consultations about their care <u>What to expect in appointments</u>: Mixed patient experience is highlighted. Some patients know what to expect of the service, including planning for future appointments, and are kept informed and up to date about the service. Other patients would like to have More information to be provided when sending confirmation booking. On patients first appointment they were not sure what to expect. <u>Flexible appointments</u>: One patient was told by a different department at Central Middlesex Hospital to go to Physiotherapy department and see if they could book a future appointment. The Physio department had a free slot and was able to see them on the day. 	adult therapies, has discussed this report with her staff. They have been reminded to check whether patients need interpreters before the sessions and to ensure that they are booked if so. The team thought the idea of a special hydrotherapy session for elderly patients was an excellent one and will explore introducing one.	provide a special hydrotherapy session but there are popular



audits using a 'perfect ward app' which checks on a range of measures of quality, safety and patient experience, including the accessibility of call bells. Since the visit, there have been no similar reports. We were disappointed to hear that one staff member was described as aggressive. They have since participated in the Trust HEART's values training and have been reminded that they are the face of the organisation. We have fed back to the parent education team and the breastfeeding team on the positive feedback from the women.	•	 Staff are reminded on a regular basis during the safety brief to complete comfort rounds for all women. This includes checking whether sheets need to be changed. Weekly 'Perfect Ward' checks are carried out by the Matron or Ward Manager. Any areas that require attention are handed over to the Midwife in charge of the shift. Regular assessments are carried out by a senior midwife from a different
feedback from the		assessments are carried out by a senior midwife

	are passed onto the matron to action. This includes a 'dummy' call bell test. • The Trust HEART value are reiterated at each safety brief to all staff.
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