

SPINAL BACK TO BASICS

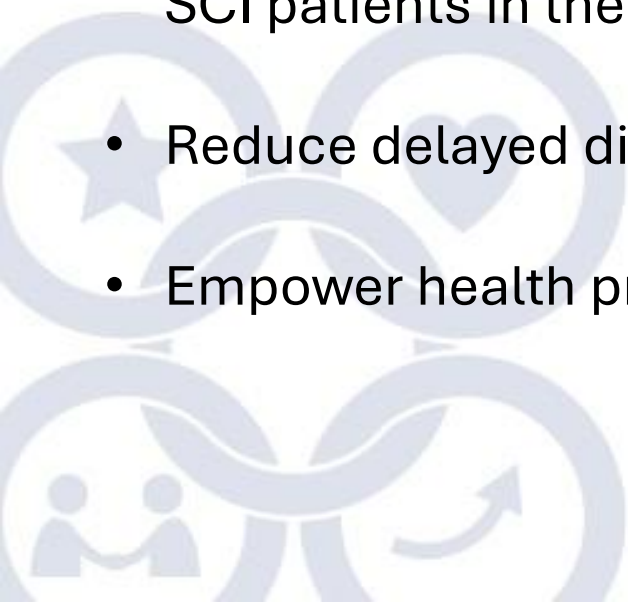
Training For The Management of Spinal Cord Injury

Laura Davis – Practice Educator



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Co-production of quality improvement initiatives with our staff and communities.
- Improve the understanding of spinal cord injury (SCI) for staff working in the rehabilitation centre.
- Improve the knowledge and services provided by people caring for SCI patients in the community.
- Reduce delayed discharges from the unit.
- Empower health professionals caring for SCI patients.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Yorkshire Regional Spinal Injuries Centre, located in Wakefield at Pinderfields General Hospital and is a 32 Bedded Unit.

1 of the 8 Spinal Centres in England.

No practice educator or education facilitator for 20+ years.

Specialist training was very few and far between in the centre.



WHAT PROBLEM WAS IDENTIFIED?

- Staff from the ward and people in the community caring for SCI patients did not feel they understood their patients disability as much as they should.
- Services and treatment were regularly being delayed due to lack of understanding of SCI amongst health professionals.
- Discharges from our centre were often being delayed due to the lack of understanding/competence of our own staff and external services.



WHAT WE DID..

CREATED 'SPINAL CORD INJURY – BACK TO BASICS'

We have currently held six sessions on the ward over one year, covering all nursing staff. In the following year we have held twelve back to basic sessions for different community teams, five nursing homes, Hull intensive care unit and our first session for our own trust.





WHO IS THIS AIMED AT?

- Staff Working at The Spinal Centre
- Community Nursing Teams
- Nursing Homes
- Referring Hospitals/ Major Trauma Centres
- Care Companies Supporting SCI Patients Daily
- ANYBODY WHO WILL LISTEN AND ACT!



HAVE WE ACHIEVED THE LEARNING OUTCOMES?



- Discharges that would usually be delayed due to insufficient training have improved significantly.
- Ward staff are now more comfortable to make informed decisions to continue effective inpatient treatment and care.
- Health professionals have voiced they feel more empowered to make a decision and support SCI patients more effectively and efficiently.

FEEDBACK

‘Very interesting, very interactive and really glad I got to learn and practice manual assisted cough’.

‘I hadn’t considered discussing sexual function so now I feel more confident to do so’.

‘I have worked on the spinal ward for years and never had training like this’.

‘My favourite section of the morning. Adjustment can take years and years, loved the helpful practical section on supporting patients to cope.’

‘Really appreciated thorough explanations from Phil, I have a much better understanding about different types of spinal injury’.

‘Great talk thanks Laura. Very interesting to here that manual evacuation is still being used will take this back to ward 4 at HRI and ask for training to be given so we can help our spinal patients gain a good bowel regime.’

‘I now know what ASIA means and can interpret the information on the chart’.

Informative - able to take ideas back to Leeds to implement. Insight into how physio is able to aid with bladder and bowel care

‘I liked that I could ask questions to the team I work with but never spoke to’.

SO, WHAT NEXT?

- To provide yearly back to basics training days for our trust for those staff who have an interest in spinal cord injury or who care for them on their ward.
- To continue to provide in house and external training to all appropriate health professionals.
- Provide the training to all major trauma centres with close links to our centre to enhance their skills and knowledge to improve patient journey and experience.
- To audit the patient outcome going forward over the coming year.

