Introducing the new Dementia and Delirium Team.

Dr Natalie McNeela, Dr Elizabeth King, and Team.

Dementia is an umbrella term for a group of conditions affecting memory and cognition. It affects 850,000 people in the UK with numbers increasing every year.

Delirium is a sudden confusion estimated to affect 25% of all inpatients, increasing to 50% post-surgery and on elderly care wards.

10 years ago RWT NHS Trust created a ward for people living with dementia for person centred care with a small outreach team led by a Consultant Nurse. This could only provide limited access to the specialised service to other patients throughout the organisation and patients with delirium were excluded.

During Covid, there was a revision of services and new ways of working were explored to meet the increasing demands.

On 7th October we launched our new service: Complex Older Adults Team; Dementia and Delirium.

A consultant led service with staff available 24/7 to review patients with dementia and delirium. A registered nurse will identify and provide patients in the Emergency Department with person centred assessment and treatment plan to facilitate a safe discharge or appropriate admission. Post Take by a Consultant Geriatrician in ED bypasses the Acute Medical Unit and allows direct admission to a ward.

Additional patients highlighted by wards/departments can be referred via a 24 hour telephone number.

Once the patient is ready to go home we will:

- Provide phone follow up to identify any new problems on discharge
- Liaise with primary care, community teams or bring to a hot clinic if any concerns identified.
- For patients identified as likely dementia we will review in clinic for a formal diagnosis and start appropriate medication.

Services provided:

- Comprehensive Geriatric Assessments by geriatricians with an interest in dementia and delirium.
- Identify patients with likely undiagnosed dementia and start the diagnosis process in hospital.
- Medication reviews including where appropriate dementia medications and anti-psychotic medications for BPSD
- Pain review using Abbey Pain Score
- Bowel and bladder health review
- Nutrition support
- Distraction therapy and de-escalation for agitated patients
- Liaising with family including video calls for support
- Assistance with personal care and enhanced care

Complex Older Adult Team
Dementia & Delirium
Ext: 8495 or 07436 022603