



SESSION

Wednesday

G 11.00 am and G 1.00 pm

Mary Chapman

Cert Ed PCET instILM NVQ5 IHCD

As a volunteer with the British Red Cross Mary became a team leader for first aid and nursing teams at the age of 14 this allowed her to develop skill and understanding of casualty manual handling whilst keeping the risk to the team to a minimum.

Working in the private care sector, NHS PCT,s and District General Hospital's have all added to Mary's understanding of the challenges that are faced when carrying out manual handling tasks Mary continued as a volunteer and became a trainer for first aid and nursing. Then in 1991 The Red Cross became involved in a pilot project for NVQ in teaching and assessing awards when this was achieved.

The Further Adult Education Teaching Certificate stage 2 and subsequent Cert Ed PCET along with this was the qualification to teach manual handling and Health and Safety.

A part time job teaching at a local college also gave her the privileged opportunity of working with young adults with learning difficulties and to develop first aid and manual handling courses with them.

Throughout her professional career Mary has continued to be proactive in risk management within both the NHS and voluntary services

Mary has a wide variety of experience in residential, nursing and the emergency care setting. Her responsibilities include to ensuring training needs are met, providing advice to all clinical and non clinical staff on moving and handling issues. Assisting staff with advice on the case of need..

At Risk Staff – At Risk Patients :

How Can We Reduce the Risk for Spinal Cord Injury Patients in an Acute District Hospital

Inexperience and lack of training causes staff to feel vulnerable and stressed. This is supported by issues highlighted where potential spinal cord injuries (SCI) patients are placed in areas of the hospital where staff have had little or no experience of caring for patients with this condition. With the ever increasing pressures to provide quality evidence-based care, and a decreasing, demoralised workforce struggling to maintain the daily workload, it has been essential to provide some support and training for a variety of staff caring for these already traumatised patients. We have established therefore, through our literature review, that there is little evidence to support this work.

On identifying the problem, a formal risk assessment was carried out and a group was quickly established as part of an action plan. Group membership included the Trust Manual Handling Advisor, a Modern Matron for Orthopaedics and Trauma, the Divisional Learning Lead for Surgery, a Sister from the Orthopaedic Advanced Care area, and a Charge Nurse from the Emergency Department. A training workshop was set up, including some information on spinal anatomy, and demonstration and the practical application of safe handling of potential SCI patients. This allowed staff time and support to experience all positioning activities necessary empowering them on their return to the workplace. This was offered to a variety of staff across the Trust, including trained nurses, HCA's, Physio's and Xray staff. Evaluations of those who attended recorded reduced anxiety and increased confidence in handling SCI patients and thereby an increase in patient safety. We continue to strive for a more robust system, ensuring quality care for our patients, and support for all our staff under stressful conditions.

