

Trust Board Paper Q

To:	Trust Board
From:	Rachel Overfield, Chief Nurse
Date:	30th January 2014
CQC regulation:	Outcome 1,2,4,11,14,17

Title:	Patient Stories – Experience of Acupuncture Treatment within the Trust
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Author/Responsible Director:
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Purpose of the Report:
 To describe patients experience of Acupuncture within the pain service

The Report is provided to the Board for:

Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Endorsement	<input type="checkbox"/>

Summary / Key Points:

Introduction

- The purpose of this paper is to share with Trust Board a number of patients stories that highlight the experiences of Acupuncture within Leicester’s Hospitals.
- The Acupuncture Service receives a great deal of positive feedback from patients and the four patients within the accompanying DVD share how the access to Acupuncture has changed their lives allowing them all to experience life without pain.

Patient Experiences

- All four patients whose stories are shared have prior to Acupuncture felt isolated, depressed, in constant pain. All the patients required large dosages of pain killers with the possibility of extensive surgery.
- Following treatment with Acupuncture all the patients expressed an ability to conduct a ‘normal life’, and a better quality of life. The patients did not require the large numbers of pain killers and had avoided surgery. Patients were able to exercise and felt free to do activities that they had not undertaken for a long period due to the severe pain they were experiencing.
- One patient states “*I have come in today in pain, and I am going home smiling!*”

The Acupuncture Service

- Acupuncture is a treatment modality that has been provided as part of the chronic pain service since 1997.
- Over the years the service has collected robust evidence of its effectiveness with audit and research projects. This is also substantiated by a large body of positive evidence world wide.

- Currently in Leicester's Hospitals there are three Clinical Nurse Specialists providing acupuncture and they treat 4,500 patients per year and generate an income of £135k per annum.
- Acupuncture is an efficient, effective, safe and pain free treatment with no side effects. It is used for all types of painful conditions including: musculo-skeletal pain, joint pain, headache, nerve pain and abdominal pain. Not only does it provide pain relief but improves sleep, reduces depression, increases mobility and their quality of life far better.
- It has been shown to reduce the need for analgesics and patients have even avoided surgery so has an important cost saving aspect. General Practitioners understand the value of Acupuncture and UHL take multiple referrals from across Leicestershire.
- In order to cope with the large number of referrals the nurses have taught seven hundred patients to do their own self acupuncture and this has been very successful.

The Future

- The Acupuncture Service is very pleased that they continue to be commissioned as many other Acupuncture Services throughout Britain have been reduced or stopped. If the Acupuncture Service was expanded it may provide cost savings in other areas.
- The future plans include taking this valuable service into primary care.

Recommendations: Trust Board to continue to support this important service.

Previously considered at another corporate UHL Committee? No

Strategic Risk Register: N/A

Performance KPIs year to date:
4,500 patients seen per annum
£135k income per annum

Resource Implications (e.g. Financial, HR): N/A

Assurance Implications: N/A

Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Implications: N/A

Stakeholder Engagement Implications: N/A

Equality Impact: N/A

Information exempt from Disclosure: None

Requirement for further review? None