

Red Bag Scheme

Chantal Corneill and Merry Leslee

Red Bags Improve Transfer and Communication:

An important part of the process is this the 'Hospital Transfer Pathway' document which stays with the resident throughout their hospital stay and contains information on the individuals needs, preferences, likes, dislikes and interests.

Approach and Collaboration

- The pathway is designed to support patients, care homes, the ambulance service and local hospitals to meet the requirements of NICE guidance(NG27) Transition between inpatient hospital settings and community or care home settings for adults with social care.
- The pathway is a whole systems approach and success is dependent on the collaborative working of all partners who are involved.
- Evidence from 'Sutton Vanguard' 2015 – A preliminary evaluation revealed:
 - Reduced length of stay (approximately 4 days) for care home residents in hospital through quicker and better assessment, treatment and discharge
 - Reduced cost of replacing residents lost belongings such as dentures, glasses and hearing aid.

The 'Red Bag'

- Follows a resident throughout their hospital episode and is returned home with them.
- The hospital transfer pathway, checklist, emergency admission pack and all other relevant clinical information about the resident i.e. DNACPR, Mars Charts, medications and any belongings they will need.
- Advantages to the patient, care home, ambulance crew, the hospital setting;
- are all baseline information would be up to date,
- smoother handovers,
- correct care can be given immediately,
- enhanced communication.

Red Bag Working Group.

- Purpose of the group: to design, localise and implement a Red Bag (Hospital Transfer Pathway) based on the success of the Sutton Model.
- Bi-weekly meetings were commenced
- Led by Trafford CCG: Head of Individualised Care,
- Members include: Review and QI Nurse, Trafford Council representative, Wyncourt, Faversham, Timperley Care and St Marks, NWAS.
- Recognised the group needs input from the acute sector, Mastercall and a GP representative: invitations sent.
- The Hospital Passport pro-forma reviewed and a final version document created:
- Hospital Transfer Pathway and checklist in final draft. Aim to provide person centred, holistic approach to care and documentation.
- Advice sought from Trafford Infection Control Lead Nurse regarding an infection control policy and decontamination of the red bags on return to the care setting:
- Initially 16 Red Bags ordered
- Updates to be given to key CCG and Council groups

Update:

- The homes will trial with nursing staff completion of the documentation and sign off by clinical leads in the background: aim to assess how well the document will be completed.
- Paperwork and Process designed and confirmed.
- Secured commitment by acute sector – request for support from Urgent Care Board and Wythenshawe Hospital.
- Awareness and training to be delivered. Promotional work and a training package is explained as being critical to ensuring successful implementation.
- The formal pilot has been running since July 2018 with successes for patients.
- Discussion regarding what happens when a poor admission/discharge occurs: incident reporting needs to be built into the Pathway document.

Example Picture of Red Bag: Identity Card will be placed in the clear business sized window

Trafford bags will not have the Vanguard logo

Clear document sleeve on the rear for resident report form.
Consecutively numbered for easy identification and security



The Red Bag has been designed using the latest micAgard technology giving it a high quality durable feel with top grab handles for ease of carrying.



Cleaning the Red Bag: Infection Control

Cleaning instructions for the RED BAG: Store in 1 designated area within the home

- Clean inside and out thoroughly with warm water and detergent using a disposable cloth. Dry thoroughly with paper towels
- Each time the bag is cleaned it should be examined for any damage e.g. rips/tears. All damage should be reported to the Manager.
- Is there any evidence of contamination with blood or body fluids? A sporicidal pack of wipes is recommended
- Clean thoroughly with warm water and detergent to remove the visible soiling and then wipe with a freshly prepared solution of a chlorine-releasing agent e.g. bleach. (concentration of 10,000 ppm of available chlorine)
- Place the clean bag in a designated clean storage area: Each time the bag is cleaned it should be examined for any damage e.g. rips/tears. All damage should be reported to the manager.
- Do not leave in the resident's room

Resources

- For more information:
- All documents available from Trafford CCG or Pilot Homes.
- To read NICE coverage of the Hospital Transfer Pathway
- <https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/using-a-red-bag-approach-to-improve-transition-of-care>
- View a film about the Transfer Pathway from resident's perspective:
- <https://youtu.be/MP03jUtBXma>
- Short Films: Sutton Vanguard Hospital Transfer Pathway
- <https://www.suttonccg.nhs.uk/vanguard/plans/Pages/Hospital-Transfer-Pathway.aspx>

