



Improving together

The Pad Project leading to improvements in continence care

A hands-on training and education programme for healthcare support workers is helping to ensure the correct incontinence pads are used in the right way, on the right patients.

The Pad Project has resulted in a 50 per cent increase in patients wearing the correct pads and a 20 per cent increase in the number of patients wearing only one pad.

Clinical nurse educators started using Improving Together to approach the problem in a structured way, after patients were found to be wearing multiple pads, rather than a single pad of the correct type.

A bespoke training programme now takes place on wards and is repeated regularly to include new staff.

An assessment tool and poster have also been designed in collaboration with healthcare support workers, providing a simple visual guide.

Stock is now regularly reviewed to ensure wards have the correct continence options, and Underwear Banks are being created for patients who need underwear while in hospital.

Across the initial wards to benefit from the Pad Project - Woodpecker, Jupiter and Saturn - there has been less moisture-associated skin damage related to incontinence pads, a reduction in environmental waste and estimated savings of more than £6,000 across the three wards in 12 months.

There's still a long way to go and the Pad Project is now being introduced to more areas across the Trust, but it's already having a big impact on the comfort, safety and recovery of patients.