

JBDS-IP The Rowan Hillson Inpatient Safety Award 2019 Best Perioperative Pathway for People with Diabetes

Judges

Rowan Hillson (chair)
Clare Crowley
Ketan Dhatariya
Lucy Fermor
Nicholas Levy
Dimitri Poumaras

I would like to thank JBDS-IP, all the organisers, and the judges for giving up so much of their time and energy during an extremely challenging time for the NHS. As always, many grateful thanks to Christine Jones for everything. I enjoyed reading the entries but did not judge them.

Comments

It was inspiring to see so many impressive entries, summarising a huge amount of work to improve patient care. I would particularly like to thank everyone involved for developing and delivering the projects, and for taking the time and trouble to share them by submission for this award. Perioperative care brings together many different specialties and systems and it is really good to see the excellent collaboration and shared learning demonstrated in these projects. There are lessons to learn in all the entries

Winner

Many congratulations to David Burckett-St.Laurent and the extensive multi-specialty team at the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board for their excellent description and careful analysis of a project which completely restructured existing care for people with diabetes undergoing surgery. The new care plan, from pre-operative optimisation, through surgery and hospital stay where required, was based on JBDS guidance. "Prior to the new pathway no diabetes management plans were generated for patients; now 100% of patients have a generated plan. 1000 standardised pre-assessment plans were completed by 60 different clinicians in the year April 18– April 19." In one hospital 91% of those with HbA1c >69 mmol/mol had better glycaemic control by the time of surgery. Two patients so improved their health that their surgery was no longer needed. One patient said: "I feel the best I have ever felt since my diabetes control has improved". No extra resource was required.

Runner up

Close on the winners' heels were Dr Nicola Leech and the team from Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals Foundation Trust with 'Making Surgery Safer for people with Diabetes'. This trust has over 76,000 surgical episodes a year among whom 15% are in people with diabetes. Having found that the surgical wards were the highest risk areas for diabetes care in the trust, "Improving peri-operative diabetes care was identified as a key priority when the Trust enrolled in the national Sign-Up-to-Safety campaign." The 3 year project used national guidance to transform processes for the patient journey from referral to discharge, directing diabetes specialist care to those who needed it. Working with the IT department included the electronic sugar cube alert system. Electronic insulin alerts ensured pharmacy intervention where needed and errors and hypoglycaemia were reduced. Overnight stays reduced from 35% to 15%. The MDT leadership group continues to meet every 6 weeks.

Best wishes and thanks to participants, organisers, and judges of this year's award.

Rowan Hillson