

Ghana visit- January 2013.

Debbie Lee and Kate Woodhead travelled to Ghana in January 2013 for a week delivering education to nurses in partnership with the Medical and Surgical Skills Institute (MSSI) at Korle Bu Referral Hospital in Accra.

They delivered a new programme entitled 'Patient Safety and Risk Management'. 74 delegates attended the course which took them through the key elements of the International Patient Safety Solutions, Risk Management, Accountability and some of the practical solutions suggested to reduce and mitigate risk in hospitals. We were delighted that nurses from administration and policy development as well as the doctor tasked with implementing a quality assurance and patient safety programme were able to be present.

The World Health Organisation (together with others) have accumulated good data on a number of topics in the field although few data have been available on patient safety in Sub Saharan Africa. The delegates were visibly shocked by the global data presented and pleased to find that the international patient safety solutions had practical application which can be implemented at relatively low cost in many hospitals. There were in addition a number of sessions on team work and communication tools available, such as SBAR, which may be used to get at the root cause of many patient safety incidents.



The two day programme evaluated very well including some of the delegate feedback below.

In answer to the Question : What will you do differently as a result of this course, delegates responded:-

“Make proper assessment of my patient when they come to the ward and keep them safe”.

“Educate my staff on the importance of communication in healthcare”.

“Create awareness of patient safety and the appropriate way to manage risk within the hospital”.

“Education on teamwork as a tool to improve on patient care delivery”.

“To improve upon infection prevention. To improve upon communication involving patients and relatives. Involve patient fully in preparation for surgery (involving relations also) in giving consent and signing consent forms”.

“Quite a number of important areas , being:- Fixing alcohol gel dispenser at the entrance to the ward, instituting Nurse of the Month in both OPD and Ward, pasting International Patient Safety Goals, 9 Patient safety solutions & definition of patient safety”.

“Motivated to be bold in implementing changes and find appropriate ways of encouraging others to support improvements in patient safety”.

“Watch out for hazards in my work environment and try to reduce risk to patients and staff as much as possible”.

“I am going to assess my ward well; identify all risk areas and plan action to mitigate it”.

The programme was repeated in a training room at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi. We were delighted to meet the Director of Nursing Services who has recently instigated a patient safety lead for the hospital as well as a lead for Infection prevention. 42 delegates attended the education and it once again evaluated very well. They enjoyed the group work and learning from each other as well as all the delivered sessions. Many of them came from District Hospitals, travelling some distances to attend the training. Without exception they were going back to their institutions to brief their management

teams and to share with their colleagues the lessons learned. Many were also going to risk assess their ward environments and make changes.



The final training day was once again in Accra at MSSSI, delivery a session on accountability and then the nurses undertaking a case study. Each group feedback to the whole audience, and good points were made by each group, which added to their learning experience. 25 Senior ward leaders and deputy Directors of Nursing were able to attend.



Grateful thanks are extended to the staff at MSSSI, who supported the training, managed the meals, copied the data and created workbooks for the delegates. They all worked very hard to ensure that a smooth passage was possible, travelling up to Kumasi as well. We are most grateful to them all.

A plan has been made with MSSSI to return to Ghana in 2014 to deliver additional training to nurses in Ghana.