

1 Story

The patient was admitted to a Community Bedded Unit with a high blood calcium levels, an under active thyroid condition and confusion. The patient was placed under close supervision due to their confusion and high anxiety levels. The patient was allocated a bed near the nurse's station within the bedded unit to support the close supervision. During their stay the patient was found stood at the end of their bed with a hospital gown strings tied tightly around their neck. The staff on duty cut the ties safely freeing the patient and preventing any harm to have occurred.

2 Voice of the Family

The family informed the investigating officer they did not know anything about the incident until this time.



7 Areas to Progress

To contact Central Alerting System (CAS) regarding the risk of gowns with ties that pose a ligature risk.

Review the current hospital night gowns in use ensuring an alternative option is used in the future that removes this ligature risk or appropriate risk assessments in place.

3 + 4 Identified Areas of Concern

While's hospital gowns are in common use across the NHS, it has been identified from this incident, not to offer these garments to patients with confusion due to the ligature risk.

The lack of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for patients requiring on-to-one 24hr supervision or close monitoring.

The lack of communication with the family immediately after the incident.

The patient was risk assessed as needing a falls kit and bed rails were recommended but there is no mention of buffers.

6 Changes to Practice

Appropriate Confusion Tool will be implemented in all bedded areas

Standard Operating Procedure for all patients requiring close supervision

5 Learning for Professionals

Serious Incident to be shared with all staff across all CHCP Bedded Units

All staff need to be aware of the need to communicate with relatives in a timely manner after any incidents following duty of candour.

Staff undertaking Mental Capacity Training to assist embedding the assessment of mental capacity into practice and escalating concerns.