Catering for inpatients with food allergies

NHS
The Princess Alexandra Hospital
NHS Trust

Project aim
To ensure that inpatients who have food allergies or intolerances receive safe, high quality food choices, and that their nutritional needs can be met.

Timeline for delivery January 2020

Measures
-There is currently no documented process for the safe catering of inpatients with food allergies at PAH.
-The risk of a patient receiving unsafe food is recorded on the Trust's risk register.
-There are currently no allergy menus in place
-Patient feedback from a Food and Nutrition Survey (Oct 2018) indicate that only 40% of patients on a special diet felt that their needs were met (n=67)
-Mealtime observational audit data (June 2019) provided qualitative patient and nursing feedback that patients would like special diet menus, and that currently, meals for special diets are repetitive.
-Mealtime observations by a patient panel representative showed similar findings.

Tests For Change:
-To ensure that inpatients with food allergies or intolerances are catered for safely, and have access to high quality food choices that are compliant with nutritional standards.
-To develop processes for delivery of the above

Project team

Nutrition Steering Group members including Dietitians, Patient Panel Representative, Catering Team, Domestic Team, Nursing Teams

Expected results

-Reducing/eliminating incidents and complaints regarding risks for inpatients with food allergies
-An improvement in feedback from a repeat mealtime observational audit, and patient panel observations.
-An improvement in the percentage of patients requiring special diets who feel that their needs are met.
-Compliance with food allergy guidelines as assessed by the catering team and dietitian.
-Compliance with nutritional standards (British Dietetic Association) as assessed by dietitian.

Project So Far:
A workshop is being organised, in conjunction with the Quality First team. Stakeholders will be invited, so that activities can be developed in order to achieve the project aim.

Your future | Our hospital

#FabChange19

respectful | caring | responsible | committed