



National Concern for Healthcare Infections
Raising Awareness ~ Supporting You
Working for Patient Safety



Full Member

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Lights Camera Action: BBC Programme 'Points of View' Filming:

Following a conversation with Esther at IAPO, Bev Hurst was contacted by the BBC and National Concern for Healthcare Infections (NCHI) were invited to contribute to the BBC programme 'Points of View' (4 May 2008 5.15pm) doing a review on the BBC programme **Panorama** 'How clean is your hospital' (27 April 2008 10.30pm).

http://www.bbc.co.uk/consumer/tv_and_radio/points_of_view

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/panorama>

In line with the aims and objectives of NCHI it was felt this gave yet another opportunity to raise more awareness of Healthcare Infections and Patient Safety issues

The filming took place Tuesday 29 April at Val Bradbury's Home, the Film crew soon put the participants at their ease and were there nearly three hours. The session took the form of a meeting and although only two of the 'cast' had previous experience of being interviewed and filmed for media purposes, the programme and issues in question struck such a lively debate that no-one had chance to fall camera shy or lost for words. Lots of valid points, observations about the programme and other issues surrounding Patient Safety were made, amongst which were:

- Financial constraints had become a priority over patient care and this is something that sadly prevails throughout the NHS
- Hand hygiene compliance we need an educational TV campaign to get the message across. This is something which is very very dear to Val's heart and at every opportunity she got this message across so much so that when the crew were leaving they turned around and said '*yes Val we know a TV Campaign on hand hygiene compliance*'
- That the nurses often have a bad time and do not get the support needed from the Trust board
- More research funding is required: not enough is known about C Diff
- The adoption of C Diff as a notifiable disease – this would sharpen doctors responsibilities and their approaches to the disease
- Ring fenced funding for Infection Prevention
- Observations about the panorama programme were that the presenter was shown using the hand gel – but had long sleeves and also hand gel is no good for C Diff. That one consultant walked onto the ward and shook hands with the patient without adhering to hand hygiene.
- Management rounds were undertaken but points raised were not acted upon – failure to act upon the high number of infections recorded – unfit commodes and bed pans were employed
- That for most people watching the programme they would have felt scared to go into hospitals
- Once again the lack of information given to the patients and their families

Discussions also took place around the money for the deep clean and Bev pointed out that out of the £270m allocated in actual fact there was only 140m as the other £130m was set aside to get MRSA screening in place. That unless it was a year on year funding then it was totally no good without all

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the other infection prevention procedures being strictly adhered to. That the money might have been better spent on employing more nursing staff and cleaners.

Discussions also took place surrounding the subject of the over-use of antibiotic prescribing and the fact that again an educational programme geared towards everyone: Clinicians, GP's and joe public should take place to properly inform why antibiotics should only be used for what they are specifically required for they will only work against bacterial infections and not viral infections such as coughs and colds.

Another lively discussion was regarding screening and it was felt that now screening should be brought back into place for members of the healthcare workforce. This used to take place but unfortunately because of financial constraints and staffing levels it was abandoned. It was also noted that the Dept of Health, Health Protection Agency and the Healthcare Commission amongst lots of other healthcare bodies are aware of the problems surrounding C Diff and have been for a long time, they know what needs to be done but it has not been done. Despite the guidelines – '1994 working group report on Prevention and Management of CDI' (C Diff Infection) it was felt failure to implement these guidelines has contributed to the rise in these infections.

Although the 'Points of View' slot was very short it also gave **NCHI** the opportunity to raise once again awareness of Healthcare Associated Infections and Patient Safety Issues.

NCHI are grateful to all the participants who gave their time up at such short notice: Special thanks go to Val who hosted the session at her home: The '**cast**' members were:

Bev Hurst: **NCHI** Founder Member, Trustee and Secretary. Bev lost her Mum in 2003 when Margaret contracted MRSA after being admitted to hospital for a perfectly treatable illness. Bev has campaigned endlessly since then to raise awareness and works in collaboration with all the bodies concerned to bring about a safer health system for all.

Val Bradbury: **NCHI** Founder Member, Trustee and Treasurer. Val is a C Diff survivor having lost her large intestine and spleen due to the infection in 2005. Val has also campaigned endlessly to raise awareness and is determined that the only way to educate everyone regarding hand hygiene is to have a TV Campaign like those for '*smoking*' - '*Don't Drink & Drive*' and '*Speed kills*' Val lost her husband in 2005 he had also contracted MRSA.

Doreen Marsden: The 'Lee Spark' NF Foundation, Founder Member Trustee and Chair. Doreen lost her son Lee aged 23 in 1999 when he contracted NF he died within 3 days realising there was a need for support and information she formed her own charity. Doreen works in collaboration with **NCHI** and also campaigns endlessly to raise awareness.

Sheila Mitchell: **NCHI** member. Sheila contracted C Diff in 2003 and has been left with a legacy of recurring bouts and depression due to the trauma she and her family suffered because they were given no information at the time. A huge thank you to Sheila for her bravery in taking part in this session it was not an easy thing for her to do and also for allowing **NCHI** to use her case study at the numerous conferences and events **NCHI** are invited to speak at.

Mary Coleman: **NCHI** member. Mary is a retired Nurse being in the profession nearly 40 years Mary's insights are a valuable source of information to **NCHI**. Mary was able to comment with regards the lack of support for the Nurses in the panorama programme

Jean MacAtee: **NCHI** member. Jean was able to give valuable comments as to how scared the programme had made her and her family feel

Wendy Jackson: **NCHI** member. Wendy gave lots of valuable feedback on the programme and made valid points about the nurse to patient ratio.

Mary, Jean and Wendy are a part of a huge network of friends that are lifelong and have always supported Val, being there in her darkest hours and in turn are now an invaluable support to **NCHI**.

NCHI ~ April 2008

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