

Helen Osinski Gave an excellent overview of her job as Gastro –nurse at the WRH.

She is very committed to improve patient contact and service development within the department.

She runs clinics alongside the doctors and specialists at WRH and keeps in very close contact with them by having regular meetings about patient support and treatments.

Helen will also run ‘Telephone Clinics’ for elderly patients or other patients unable to attend hospital and she sees this as a vital role and contact point for many.

With the hospital’s co-operation, she is trying to streamline the service. Helen works with 4 Consultants and keeps herself informed of any new research into IBD and their treatments.

It has been discovered that IBD sufferers may be more prone to develop Osteoporosis and Chickenpox and Helen is helping with the testing of newly diagnosed IBD patients as soon as possible after diagnosis.

Screening for Hepatitis and HIV is also included as some drugs can worsen their effects.

Helen has produced a leaflet which advises patients on links with DVT and also advises patients to be immunised against ‘Flu regularly and Immunococcal pneumonia.

Big changes are afoot at our hospital and by the end of this year(2011), the entire Trust is ‘going paperless’!This means that all patient records will have to be put on a Data Base. This is a huge task, which currently the IT department at the hospital is putting in place. National statistics estimate that the patient base for IBD patients alone is 0.5 Million.This is open to question.

Helen hopes that there will be a Newsletter Link to the hospital website so ‘watch this space’!

She opened the floor to many questions asked by our members and gave some promising news that a lot of research is going into Gene Therapy and is looking very exciting for IBD sufferers.

We are very lucky to have such an enthusiastic , passionate and committed Gastro-nurse in Worcester. She is keeping abreast of new developments and bringing new ideas to her job (she is not averse to people ringing her at work, for advice).

Anyone suffering from IBD in the Worcester area is truly fortunate in having Helen look after them.