BAPEN responds to the fourth wave of CQC Reports in 15 hospitals on Dignity and Nutritional Care published 16 June 2011

- Hospitals in Stockport and Bedford failed aspects of the CQC spot check inspections on dignity and nutritional care
- At Stockport, inconsistencies were observed between two wards with one not complying with basic standards of nutritional care such as failing to offer food and drink to ‘at risk’ patients and inadequate monitoring and recording, leaving the most vulnerable patients at increased risk
- The CQC Spot Checks focus on only two wards and therefore we do not know how many wards across a whole hospital are compliant with these essential standards
- 75% of hospitals spot checked by CQC are meeting the essential (basic) standards; many are demonstrating excellent standards of nutritional care
- 25% of hospitals CQC checked are failing one or more of the essential standards of dignity and nutritional care

Dr Mike Stroud, Chair of BAPEN responds:

"Hospitals are legally bound to comply with the CQC’s standards of nutritional care. It is unacceptable that many hospitals ‘spot-checked’ by CQC were found to be non-compliant on essential standards of nutritional care and disappointing that they were not happy with standards of nutritional care seen in other hospitals. BAPEN has long campaigned for all patients to be weighed and screened for malnutrition on admission so that patients at risk can be identified and treated. If screening does not take place, malnutrition remains unidentified and untreated which results in increased complications, longer hospital stays and even death.

When patients are identified as already malnourished or ‘at risk’, it is vital that agreed care plans are implemented and patients monitored and re-assessed as appropriate.

There really is no excuse. Hospitals have all the evidence, guidance and training materials they need - much of it provided by BAPEN. They should by now have made nutritional care a priority and have focused on redesigning systems to ensure that good nutritional care is delivered to all patients, whether that’s help with eating and
drinking, provision of special diets or supplements or interventions such as tube feeding.

It is therefore unbelievable that so many patients are still being let down by managers and staff over this fundamental issue of care."

CQC Press release issued 16 June

CQC publishes a further 15 reports into dignity and nutrition in NHS hospitals

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) today publishes the third batch of reports from an inspection programme which examines whether elderly people receive essential standards of care in 100 NHS hospitals throughout England. The programme focuses on whether people are treated with dignity and respect, and whether they get food and drink that meets their needs.

The 15 inspection reports published today include reports on two hospitals were found to be failing to meet essential standards of quality and safety. A further nine were meeting essential standards, but the CQC recommended that improvements were made. The remaining four hospitals were compliant with both of the essential standards reviewed.

Further inspection reports will be published at weekly intervals over the course of the summer, with a national report into the findings from the programme to follow in September.

These Trusts were not meeting one or more of the essential standards of quality and safety we reviewed. Improvements were needed.

. BEDFORD HOSPITAL NHS TRUST
. STOCKPORT NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

These Trusts were meeting both standards of quality and safety we reviewed, but to maintain this, we suggested that some improvements were made.

. SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
. UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS BIRMINGHAM FOUNDATION TRUST
. GUY'S AND ST THOMAS' NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
. UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL OF SOUTH MANCHESTER NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
. CROYDON UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS NHS TRUST
. WALSALL HOSPITALS NHS TRUST
. TRAFFORD HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST
. HEART OF ENGLAND FOUNDATION TRUST
. ROYAL BOLTON HOSPITALS NHS TRUST

These Trusts were meeting both of the essential standards of quality and safety we reviewed.

. NORTH TEES AND HARTLEPOOL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
. BURTON HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
. EAST AND NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE NHS TRUST
. QUEEN VICTORIA HOSPITAL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

CQC release ends/

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BAPEN, the British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, is the multi-professional registered charity, committed to combating malnutrition & to improving nutritional care and treatment in hospital, care & community.

BAPEN is Registered Charity No. 1023927 www.bapen.org.uk.