‘Formula One pit-stop’ medical assessments in Emergency Department

04 October 2012

The rapid assessment and treatment rooms provide a dedicated space where senior nurses can assess a patient as soon as they arrive in the Emergency Department, and perform a comprehensive set of investigations. This enables clinicians to be alerted to the most serious cases more quickly to ensure patients receive the most appropriate care.

The resuscitation and assessment area now has six new resuscitation bays, instead of four, all of which feature new equipment such as the latest ventilators and monitors. Each room has the equipment to treat patients of all ages with paediatric trolleys now available in each bay.

Richard Kendall, clinical director of the Emergency Department, said: “The new resuscitation area is much more spacious than our previous facilities and is fitted with state-of-the-art equipment. Like a Formula One pit-stop, the rapid assessment and treatment rooms allow senior nursing staff to immediately assess patients so that the most urgent cases are treated quicker. The new facilities will help us to deal with the sickest and most injured patients in much better circumstances.”

Robbie Ayers, operations manager for the emergency department, said: ‘We have already received a lot of positive feedback from patients and staff. Capital Projects, the design team and the building contractors have worked closely with clinical teams to provide high quality
facilities that support the provision of excellent patient care, as well as streamline other emergency care pathways.'

The emergency department saw more than 90,000 patients last year, and is undergoing an extensive development, due to be complete by the end of the year. The final phase of improvements will provide more patient assessment and treatment bays, and a 'chair centric area'. This is an idea taken from the oncology day unit, where patients can have observations or bloods taken from a comfortable chair rather than a hospital bed.

> Emergency department