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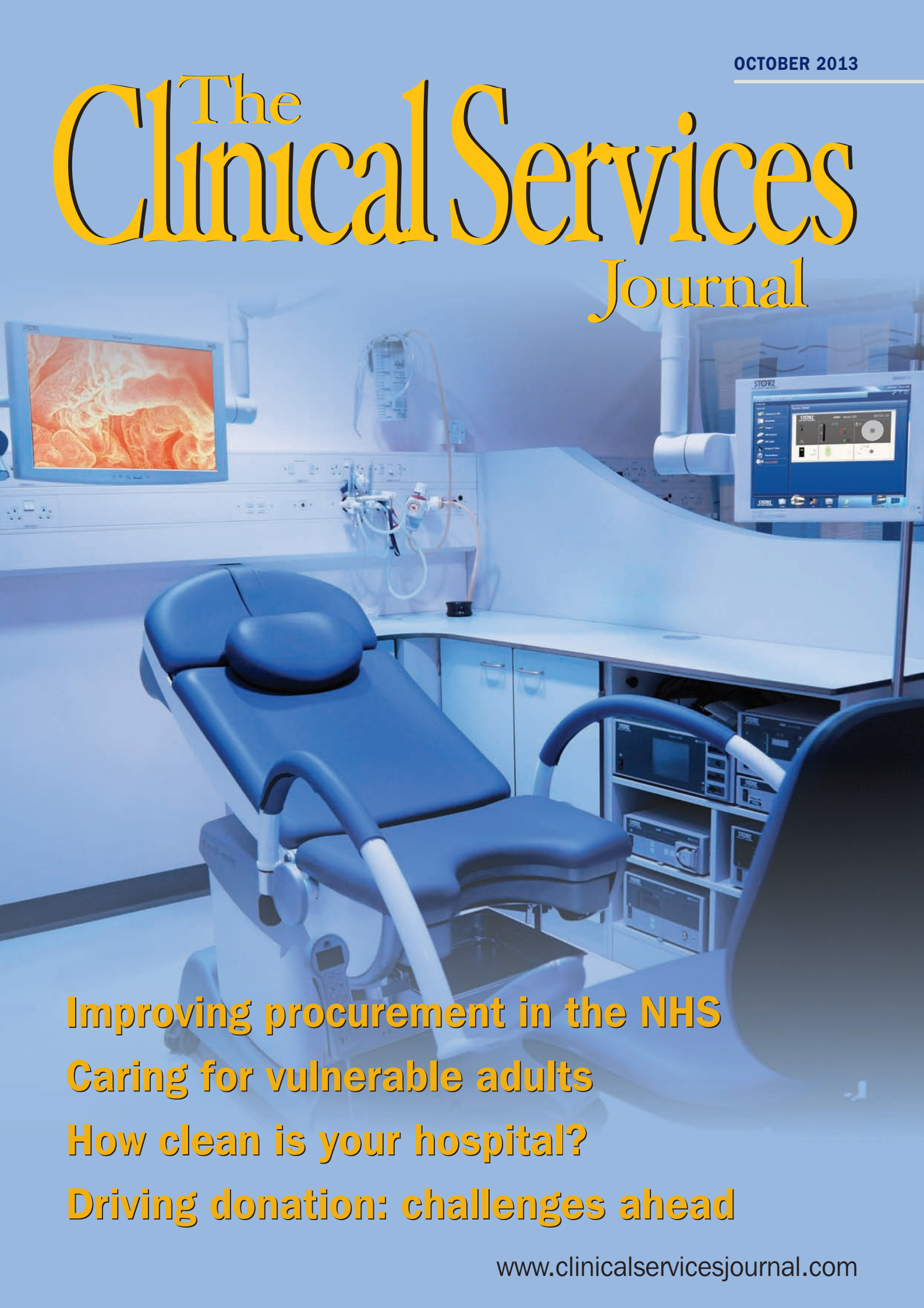

Improving procurement in the NHS

Caring for vulnerable adults

How clean is your hospital?

Driving donation: challenges ahead

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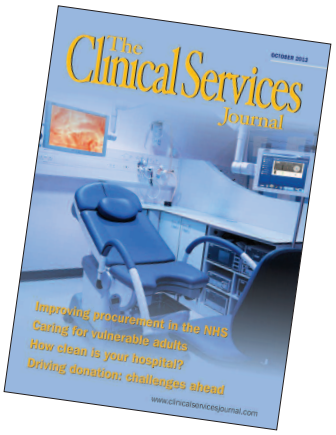
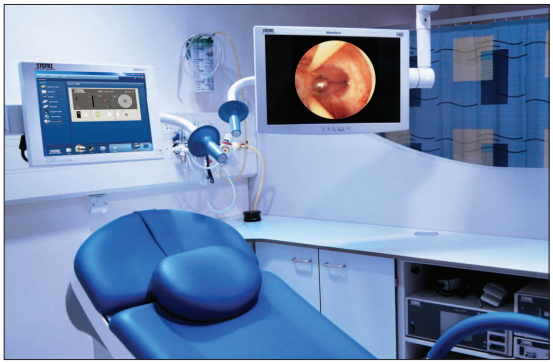
OFFICE1 outpatient operating space puts patients at ease



When Mr Richard Penketh, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, put together a team to implement his SHINE 2010 project, no one could have realised just what a success the new gynaecological outpatient facility, incorporating KARL STORZ's OFFICE1, would be.

The Health Foundation's annual SHINE programme funds groundbreaking ideas that focus on new, exciting innovations. In simple terms, Mr Penketh's proposal was to develop a way to move hysteroscopic gynaecological procedures from theatre to outpatients, streamlining the entire operating process. Local anaesthetic use had already increased, but evaluation identified that patients often found it intimidating to be awake in a theatre environment. The move to outpatients allowed the establishment of an operating space that looked more like a consultation room, was smaller, less formal, and required fewer staff. This helped to create a quicker, less nerve-wracking episode for patients, and allowed for better use of staff and space, freeing the main theatre for more major surgery.

Mr Penketh recognised this need to create an aesthetically pleasing, yet practical, environment and, with the SHINE team working in collaboration with KARL STORZ, the OFFICE1 workspace became a central part of the new initiative. OFFICE1 reflects and complements the strengths and values of its 'big brother', the OR1™ NEO integrated operating theatre, and leads the way into the future of minimal access surgery in an outpatient setting. Although KARL STORZ originally designed the first OFFICE1 in conjunction with ENT clinicians for an office environment, the OFFICE1 at UHW is the first to be used for gynaecological procedures – a truly exciting development in the company's history and relationship with the hospital.



Ergonomic operative workplace

OFFICE1 utilises all the features of a full OR1™ NEO, but in a more compact form, suitable for outpatient requirements. It is an ergonomic operative workplace, combining and optimising space for the indispensable computer workstation with the surgical area and endoscopic equipment. This creates a shortened pathway and makes the whole room more efficient. It also means the environment is less frightening for patients, so they remain calmer throughout the procedure.

The workspace is fully functional, and has integrated picture documentation at the push of a button, so also acts as a patient documentation centre that can be easily integrated into hospital information systems. Real time HD endoscopic images can be played via the various HD monitors positioned around the suite, and watched by the patient and team. Alternatively, with the incorporation of an iPod docking station, during the procedure the patient can watch their own movie on the large wall-mounted 40" HD screen or listen to their own music.

Waiting times reduced

From the start of the SHINE 2010 project to the official launch of the procedure suite in May 2013, the hospital's SHINE team and KARL STORZ worked closely every step of the way, driven by a mutual desire to improve, fuelled by creativity and innovation and built on mutual respect and understanding. Since the launch of the facility, routine waiting times for hysteroscopic resection have more than halved from 26 weeks to 8-12, and cases of suspected cancer are seen within 3-6 weeks.

"UHW's new gynaecological outpatients facility has been designed through a clinical and industrial partnership. I wish we could find a way to bottle what we have achieved, and replicate this kind of success." *Adam Cairns, Chief Executive, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.*

The entire process has been streamlined and costs £651 pounds less* than a day case procedure carried out under a general anaesthetic. Nurse hysteroscopist and surgical assistant, Lizzie Bruen says: "Staff morale is very high, and they are now embracing other new developments," while senior staff nurse, Sarah Hill calls it "a dream come true."

Hospitals interested in carrying out a similar project should contact scaleupday.wiwh@karlstorz-uk.com for more information.

* *This figure is based on performing an endometrial resection within the UHW SHINE project.*