

Patient safety courses

MORE than 150 health care students have been invited to attend training courses to help improve the safety of patients.

The courses will take place on Friday, at both the University Hospital of Hartlepool and the University Hospital of North Tees.

They have been organised by North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust with the Centre for Excellence in Healthcare Professional Education, a partnership of the universities of Newcastle, Durham, Northumbria, Sunderland and Teesside with regional NHS organisations.

The event will bring together students including medics, nurses, dieticians, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, radiographers and pharmacists.

The aim is to improve their skills in patient safety, reducing errors, analysing complaints and understanding

each others' roles.

Dr Jane Metcalf, of the University Hospital of North Tees, said: "This is a unique course because we bring together students from a range of professional groups so that they can learn from, with and about each other and understand what each other does.

"We think it is extremely important to raise students' awareness of patient safety issues at this early stage in their career and also to promote team working and communication between professionals.

"This is the second year we have run the course following excellent feedback from the students who took part last year.

"We know that many errors and complaints in hospital are due to poor communication and lack of effective team working between health care workers from different professions and we hope to improve this."