

Quality and Safety Clinical Governance Development initiative Briefing for the Irish Association of Directors of Nursing and Midwifery

In Q3 2011 the Quality and Patient Safety Directorate established a renewed focus on **Clinical Governance Development**. A steering group and working group for clinical governance development was established under the direction of the National Director Quality and Patient Safety. A national lead was appointed and an international reference panel was established. In September 2012 the clinical governance development steering group agreed to expand their original role, to provide strategic direction and advice of a national steering group on the supports for the implementation of the national standards for safety better healthcare and to the collaboratives set up for this purpose.

Clinical governance is:

- The system through which healthcare teams are accountable for the quality, safety and satisfaction of patients in the care they have delivered.

For health care staff this means:

- Specifying the clinical standards you are going to deliver and showing everyone the measurements you have made to demonstrate that you have done what you set out to do.

Aim of Clinical Governance Development Initiative:

- Creating a culture where quality and safety is everybody's primary goal.

Objective of Clinical Governance Development Initiative:

- Every clinical and social care action is aligned within a clinical governance system

Priorities of Clinical Governance Development Initiative:

- Building clinical leadership capacity
- Developing cultures supportive of clinical governance
- Focusing on systems and methodologies for clinical governance.

Documents Published in 2012:

- Quality and Patient Safety Clinical Governance Information Leaflet
- Quality and Patient Safety Clinical Governance Development Assurance Check for Health Service Providers
- Quality and Safety Prompts for Multidisciplinary Teams

Supports provided in 2012

The completion of the National Clinical Programmes Clinical Governance Checklist (issued in October 2011) assisted clinical leads in ensuring that clinical governance arrangements are incorporated in the model /pathways of care.

Maintaining the focus on communicating the importance of clinical governance to quality and patient safety agendas during the transition of the Department of Health and HSE Board/senior management team governance arrangements is a priority. Working closely with: the National Clinical Programmes; Clinical Director/Directorates development; the Special Delivery Unit; the Annual Controls Assurance Process; and the templates for Service Agreements; we are

constantly seeking ways to ensure that the principles for quality and safety are integrated across the system.

In Autumn 2012, the Regional Director of Operations, following an invitation from Dr. Philip Crowley, National Director Quality and Safety nominated services to participate in the clinical governance development initiative. These are Sligo Regional Hospital in HSE West; Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise in DML; Connolly Hospital in DNE; Wexford General Hospital and Cork University Hospital in HSE South. At the outset it was confirmed that the current governance arrangements were understood by all partaking in the development with awareness of the opportunity to further strengthen arrangements. A similar process is being arranged in consultation with the National Primary Care Steering Group and the Regional Directors of Operations for the identification of two primary care teams to engage in the process.

The plans for 2013 focus on development of further supports for managers and clinicians through publication of:

- **Quality and Safety Walk-rounds: toolkit**
- **Quality and Safety Committee(s): guidance and sample terms of reference**
- **The Safety Pause: Information Sheet**

Undertaking a QPS audit of a sample of quality and safety (clinical governance) committees within each region in 2013.

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