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Dear Colleague,

National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures (NatSSIPs)

We are writing to introduce the new National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures (NatSSIPs) and to ask for your support in ensuring they become embedded into clinical practice in England.

These new standards published on the NHS England website today www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/patientsafety/never-events/natssips/ have been developed to support NHS organisations to provide safer care and to reduce the number of patient safety incidents related to invasive procedures.

The NatSSIPs bring together national and local learning from the analysis of Never Events, Serious Incidents and near misses through a set of recommendations that will help provide safer care for patients undergoing invasive procedures where there is the potential for a surgical Never Event to occur. This does not in any way replace the existing WHO surgical checklist, but rather enhances it by looking at additional factors such as the need for education and training.

The principle behind the NatSSIPs is that organisations will review their current local processes for invasive procedures and ensure that they are compliant with the new national standards. This will be done by organisations working in collaboration with staff to develop their own set of standards known as '*Local Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures*' (LocSSIPs).

The standards have been developed under the auspices of the NHS England Surgical Services Patient Safety Expert Group (SSPSEG), which built on the [Standardise, Educate, Harmonise report](#) from the Surgical Never Events Taskforce. The final set of standards go beyond specific Never Events and encompass the patient journey from admission to a procedural area, during performance of the procedure, and through to discharge from the area.

The NatSSIPs have been developed by a multidisciplinary group of clinical practitioners, professional leaders, human factors experts and patient representatives. External experts have commented on our various drafts, which were also sent to selected hospitals for input before testing in a number of different procedural areas. Detailed input has also been received from trust CEOs and MDs, and others who will be responsible for their implementation.

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To support trusts with the implementation of the standards, we will shortly be issuing a 'Stage 2: Resource' – NHS England Patient Safety Alert. The Alert will not only require for each relevant organisation to take local action to put the standards in place, it will also call for organisations to share their own local plans so that we can learn from one another and put proven best practice in place.

More information about the NatSSIPs is available on the [NHS England website](#). If you require further details or have any questions you can also email the NHS England Patient Safety Domain directly patientsafety.enquiries@nhs.net.

Many thanks for your help in the implementation of these NatSSIPs. We look forward to seeing their principles being adopted at a local level and making a real difference to the safety of patients in the care of the NHS.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mike Durkin
Director of Patient Safety
NHS England



William Harrop – Griffiths
Chair, NatSSIPs Group