

Patient Safety Collaborative AHSN update

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Background

The fifteen AHSNs have been given responsibility for running the Patient Safety Collaboratives (PSCs) on behalf of NHS England.

Each AHSN has selected patient safety topics, with its stakeholders, from the Patient Safety Priorities 'Wall' developed by NHS England.

Providing safe patient care is a complex and multi-factored issue for all care organisations. As Don Berwick has emphasised in his report for the NHS, it is above all a challenge that must be met by an organisational culture that encourages listening to and learning from patients, carers, and staff at all levels of an organisation. This must be supplemented by appropriate operational structures, policies, practice and robust measurement. The successful creation of a safe healthcare environment is dependent on successful leadership. The task for AHSNs is to support positive culture change and implementation of robust system-wide implementation of actions to improve patient safety, across whole regions.

1 Measurement

This is a key piece of work for all of the AHSNs. At the request of AHSNs, funding for the PSCs was top-sliced and £500k retained by NHS England to develop a national measurement 'unit'. This will enable the development of a robust measurement suite to support patient safety and ensure that centrally collected data can be accessed easily alongside regional measurement approaches. The team will support the AHSNs with the development of a comprehensive set of indicators and measures, that are common across AHSNs, and can be monitored on a local, regional and national level.

2 Cluster groups

Deborah Evans, MD for West of England AHSN is supporting the development of cluster groups outlined with the relevant PSLs. These groups are around the following subjects.

- Medicines Optimisation - Wessex AHSN
- Acute Kidney Injury – Kent Surrey and Sussex AHSN
- Mental health – West of England AHSN
- Deterioration / sepsis – North West Coast AHSN

There is much interest in a Cluster Group to support the quality of care in care homes and an 'informal' cluster group has formed around the topic of 'safe discharge from care'.

Resource for the Cluster Groups has been discussed by the PSLs and the most appropriate way of funding these is to be agreed.

3 Leadership

A proposal has been made and is currently being scoped up, to jointly evolve and progress a national framework for leadership development, which could be adopted and commissioned locally by AHSNs/Leadership Academy delivery partners across the country.

4 Resource

A central Communications and Administration function for PSCs has now been established.

5 Performance reporting

Each AHSN has appointed a leader for the rollout of the work of the Patient Safety Collaborative across their region. These Patient Safety Leads (PSLs) have been meeting together on a bi-monthly basis and have now had three meetings, with dates scheduled in calendars for 2015/16. These meetings have been used for sharing information and provided a supportive function for the PSLs.

A summary of the topics being covered by PSCs, the backgrounds of the PSLs and their interaction with their local sign up to safety campaign is currently being finalised for the National Patient Safety Collaborative Board on 13 July.

The NHS England Patient Safety Team is cognisant that the current AHSN quarterly assurance reports to NHS England include updates on the outputs and outcomes of each PSC and also spend against allocated budgets. The national AHSN and Patient Safety teams will extract data from the assurance reports to gain a comprehensive overview of progress.