

NATIONAL QUALITY BOARD

Pathway Peer Review *A note from the Secretariat*

Annexes

A - Pathway peer review to improve quality

Summary

1. At the last meeting of the NQB in September, there was a high level discussion about potential cross-system issues which could be raised by the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry, including a discussion on problems with the culture in the health system.
2. To follow on from that discussion, one issue that could be raised by the Inquiry is regarding peer review - its role and potential benefit in the NHS in terms of identifying quality problems, focussing organisations and health economies on quality from the patients' perspective, and in supporting quality improvement.
3. The NQB is asked to consider whether peer review might be an area which merits further consideration and potentially expansion, and which could form part of the system's response to the Inquiry.
4. To support the NQB in that discussion, Professor Barry McCormick has written the attached paper at **Annex A**, '*Pathway peer review to improve quality*'. This thought paper proposes that pathway peer review should be rolled out across the NHS as an addition to the existing quality improvement architecture.

The NQB is asked to consider peer review, and the model of pathway peer review proposed in Annex A, in the context of the existing quality architecture.

Does the Board believe that this area warrants further consideration and evaluation, potentially to form part of the system's response to the Francis Inquiry?

**NQB Secretariat
27 November 2012**

