



To: National Quality Board

For meeting on: 30 November 2016

Report author: NQB Secretariat

Report for:

Decision	Discussion	Information
X		

Title: Proposed scope for a review of quality surveillance groups and risk summits

Summary: The purpose of this paper is to set out the proposed scope for a review of quality surveillance groups (QSGs) and risk summits.

Recommendations / Action(s) requested:

The NQB is asked to:

- a) approve the scope for the review
- b) nominate colleagues to join a working group to oversee the review

ALB Involvement in development and sign-off of paper:

	X					

Proposed scope for a review of quality surveillance groups and risk summits

Purpose of this paper

1. The purpose of this paper is to set out the proposed scope for a review of quality surveillance groups (QSGs) and risk summits.

Background and history

Quality Surveillance Groups (QSGs)

2. QSGs were introduced following the publication in January 2013 of the National Quality Board's (NQB's) report [Quality in the New Health System: Maintaining and Improving Quality from April 2013](#). They emerged from 'planned collaborative reviews' which had been in place and were referenced in the NQB's 2010 report: [Review of early warning systems in the NHS: Acute and community services](#).
3. The NQB was clear that in order to ensure that different parts of the health and care system were working together, a network of QSGs should be established across the country, bringing health economies together locally and in the four regions. Initial guidance on how QSGs should operate, [How to establish a Quality Surveillance Group](#), was also published in January 2013. It was developed in conjunction with three pilot sites in the Midlands and East Region.
4. Given the changes in the system at that time, a review of the QSG model was undertaken six months into its existence, to understand how QSGs were operating in practice, and to identify what support they needed to be as effective as possible. This led to the publication in March 2014 of [How to make your Quality Surveillance Group effective](#).

Risk Summits

5. Risk summits were first suggested in the NQB's report, [Review of early warning systems in the NHS](#), in 2010. They are triggered where there are significant concerns that a provider is potentially or actually experiencing serious quality failures. Their aim is to coordinate action by commissioners, regulators and the provider to safeguard patients and improve quality. They are the most serious action that QSGs can take, on a continuum from routine surveillance through enhanced surveillance to calling a risk summit.
6. The NQB published guidance on risk summits which was last updated in 2013 - [How to Organise and Run a Risk Summit \(second edition\)](#). The guidance sets out:
 - potential triggers for calling a risk summit;
 - the roles and responsibilities of the different parts of the system;
 - governance arrangements; and
 - practical advice on preparing for and conducting a risk summit.

Why review QSGs and risk summits?

7. Over the three years since QSGs were last reviewed, the system and relationships within it have matured and developed. QSGs are operating in somewhat different ways across the country. The existing guidance for both QSGs and risks summits needs updating in light of various changes to the system architecture, and in response to developing practice. It is therefore timely to review both the purpose and effectiveness of QSGs and risk summits.

Aim of the review

8. The aim of the review is to:
 - understand how local and regional QSGs and risk summits are operating across the country;
 - revisit and clarify the *purpose* of QSGs (both local and regional) and risk summits, refreshing the common principles that should be in place;
 - share best practice on how QSGs and risk summits can be *effective* in achieving these purposes; and
 - develop updated national guidance reflecting findings.

Scope of the review

9. The review will seek to answer the following questions:
 - How are local and regional QSGs operating in practice across the country?
 - How are risk summits being used, including when triggered outside the QSG process? What outcomes are they leading to?
 - Are the terms of reference for QSGs still fit for purpose? If not, what changes should be made?
 - Given the (updated or agreed) terms of reference, how far are QSGs effective in achieving their purpose, considering separately:
 - local QSGs
 - regional QSGs
 - What data and information do QSGs require to be effective, and is this available?
 - Where are different approaches being taken effectively and what can the whole network learn from these examples?
 - Is there sufficient representation and attendance from participating organisations?
 - Are adequate mechanisms in place to share intelligence from other organisations, for example wider professional regulators?
 - How are different QSGs managing risk and the process of moving between routine and enhanced surveillance and risk summits?

Timeframe

10. The table below sets out a high level timeline for the review process.

Agree scope for the review	November 2016
Develop survey for local QSGs	By early January 2017
Visits to regional and local QSG meetings	November 2016 - February 2017
Interviews with a selection of key stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Directors • Regional Medical Directors • Regional Chief Nurses • QSG regional and local secretariats • QSG member organisation representatives • Wider professional regulators • NHS England regional analysts 	By February 2017
Circulate survey	Mid-January 2017
Responses to survey returned	Mid-February 2017
Develop revised guidance, interim report to NQB	February – March 2017
Final report to NQB and publish revised guidance	April 2017

Planned deliverables

11. The review will lead to:

- a report to the NQB with findings and recommendations; and
- the publication of revised guidance on QSGs and risk summits.

Governance

12. We recommend establishing a working group to oversee this review. Ideally this should be made up of people with an understanding of QSGs and risk summits, and includes representation from all organisations involved. We are in the process of seeking nominations from respective organisations, and would welcome any further steers.

Action requested

13. The NQB is asked to:

- a) approve the scope for the review; and
- b) nominate colleagues to join a working group to oversee the review.

NQB Secretariat
November 2016