To:	**National Quality Board**

For meeting on:　07 June 2017

Paper author:　Professor Bryan Williams
Chair of Medicine, UCL; Consultant Physician, UCLH
Chairman, National Early Warning Score (NEWS)

Paper for:

Decision	Discussion	Information
X	X	

Title:　　The National Early Warning Score (NEWS) for the detection of the deteriorating patient – with special relevance to detecting sepsis

Summary:

The National Early Warning Score (NEWS) was developed by the Royal College of Physicians and launched in 2012. Its purpose was to standardise the routine collection and recording of clinical measurements in hospitals and pre-hospital care, to detect seriously ill patients or acute clinical deterioration and to define the required response in terms of; (i) the speed of response, (ii) who responds, (iii) the type of patient monitoring required, and (iv) the most appropriate clinical setting for ongoing clinical care until the patient improves. The NEWS is based on routine measurements already made in hospitals; temperature, systolic blood pressure, respiratory rate, oxygen saturations and level of consciousness. The measurements are allocated a "score" on the NEWS chart and the score determines illness severity and what the response should be.

The NEWS has been validated in NHS hospitals and preclinical care and across the world as a robust predictor of clinical outcome, length of hospital stay, need for escalation of care to ICU and mortality. The NEWS is now used by a significant majority of NHS hospitals and the number is growing, has been recommended by the Royal College of Emergency Medicine for use in all NHS Emergency Departments and is widely used by ambulance services to more effectively triage patients and communicate illness severity. Over 100,000 NHS staff have voluntarily accredited as trained in the use of the NEWS using an online training tool and it is now part of undergraduate medical and nursing curriculae. Reports are emerging of major improvements in patient safety, outcomes and reductions in mortality following the implementation of the NEWS. This has been an NHS success story – a clinically-led initiative to standardise the detection and response to acute illness / clinical deterioration – improving patient outcomes. It is being adopted by health care systems globally and recently by the US navy.

Sepsis is one of the major causes of death in hospitals. A recognised weakness in efforts to reduce mortality due to sepsis, is delayed recognition of serious clinical deterioration due sepsis. The NEWS can play a key role in detecting patients who are seriously ill in whom the illness may be due to sepsis. A NEWS score of 5 or more provides a validated basis for suspecting sepsis in patients with, or at risk of infection. Such patients are at a two-fold increased risk of death. Embedding the NEWS into the routine clinical assessment of all patients with acute illness, in hospitals, out of hospitals or in pre-hospital assessment will provide the basis for improved detection and treatment of suspected sepsis or other causes of acute clinical deterioration.

Purpose:

The NQB is asked to:

1) **Endorse** the use of the NEWS. The NEWS is currently being updated to include recommendations on its use for the early detection of potential sepsis. The CQC already recognises the importance of the NEWS as a quality standard in hospitals. When the updated NEWS is launched we request that it is endorsed by the NQB and NHSE for even wider deployment across the NHS to include out of hospital and pre-hospital care, as well as hospitals;

2) The NEWS training module is hosted by the RCP and accreditation is voluntary but has already been undertaken by over 100,000 NHS staff. We request that it should be endorsed as part of mandatory training in the NHS and potentially hosted in future by HEE.

ALB Involvement in development and sign-off of paper*:

NHS England	Care Quality Commission	NHS Improvement	NHS Health Education England
X			

Public Health England	NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence	NHS Digital	DH Department of Health

ADDENDUM

The final updated NEWS was published in December 2017 and is available via the following link:

RCP National Early Warning Score