



## NATIONAL QUALITY BOARD

**For meeting on:** 05 April 2018

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**Paper for:**

Decision	Discussion	Information
X	X	X

### UPDATE ON ROLL-OUT OF THE NATIONAL EARLY WARNING SCORE 2 AND DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL PAEDIATRIC EARLY WARNING SCORE

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the roll out of NEWS2 (previously presented at the NQB board) and on the development of a national PEWS (Paediatric Early Warning Score) programme board for England.

#### PURPOSE









The NQB is asked to:

- 1) **Acknowledge** the work on NEWS2, continue to support and endorse its roll out across NHS trusts, and endorse its roll out in community services;
- 2) **Endorse** the use of the RCP's NEWS training module to provide sepsis accreditation to a greater number of NHS staff;
- 3) **Discuss** how to enhance existing alignment arrangements across ALBs to ensure the successful delivery of the programme; and



- 4) **Acknowledge and support** early work on the development of a national PEWS board for England.

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

			
X			
			



## **UPDATE ON ROLL-OUT OF THE NATIONAL EARLY WARNING SCORE 2 AND DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL PAEDIATRIC EARLY WARNING SCORE**

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the roll out of NEWS2 and on the development of a national PEWS programme board for England. Since NEWS2 was last brought to the NQB, a nationwide roll-out is underway for use in emergency departments and in ambulance services. NEWS2 is also being trialled for use in community settings. In addition, a programme board has been established to look at paediatric early warning scores (PEWS). The board, led by RCPCH and supported by NHSE and NHSI, met for the first time in March 2018, with an aim to replicate the success of the cross system sepsis programme board but to specifically focus on children and young people.

### **2. NEWS roll-out**

#### **Recap on the NQB endorsement of NEWS2**

- 2.1 In June 2017, a paper was shared with the NQB regarding the use of the National Early Warning Score (NEWS) in the assessment of acute deterioration – with special relevance to detecting sepsis. The paper informed the NQB of the updates to NEWS (termed NEWS2) and sought endorsement on the use of NEWS2 for deployment across the NHS. This would include primary and secondary care with an aim to support a reduction in hospital unwanted variation and to improved patient safety. Subsequently, the NQB confirmed its endorsement of NEWS2 for use in all hospital settings as the standard measure and strongly encouraged the evaluation (prospective ideally) of NEWS2 in primary care and ambulance services. A programme of work to roll-out NEWS2 is now underway.



## Progress since May 2017

- 2.1.1 Since the NQB meeting, a second sepsis action plan was published to identify further actions to be undertaken to enable continuing improvements in sepsis care across England over the next year. This includes a commitment by the Sepsis Board to standardise the use of NEWS2 in the assessment of acute deterioration.
  
- 2.2 To oversee delivery of this action, a sub group of the Sepsis Board (NEWS2 Working Group) has been established to support roll out of NEWS2 in acute and ambulance trusts by 2019. The working group will also look to build an evidence base for rolling out NEWS2 in a community and primary care settings. As part of the working group delivery plan, a communication strategy has been developed to support NHS England to co-ordinate cross system communication activities related to delivering the NEWS2 ambition.
  
- 2.3 NHS Improvement via the Patient Safety Collaborative issued a survey to acute trusts to establish a baseline of the use of NEWS. The survey showed NEWS was being used in approximately 75% of acute trusts. A further survey to establish a baseline on the use of NEWS in ambulance trusts is due this month. In June this year the survey will be updated and reissued to trusts to ascertain a baseline of trusts using NEWS2.
  
- 2.4 The CQUIN indicators on sepsis and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) have been combined into a single indicator focussed on reducing the impact of serious infections. The latest indicator narrative (2a) has been revised to incorporate an expectation around the transition from NEWS to NEWS2.
  
- 2.5 The CCG Improvement Assessment Framework (IAF) indicator on sepsis was published in November 2017. The indicator is intended to encourage CCGs to develop and potentially fund a strategy to raise awareness of sepsis and the use of NEWS amongst healthcare practitioners in health services they commission. Analysis of this date will be published in April 2018 and will be reviewed by the Board. The indicator will be updated this year to include the transition to NEWS2.



- 2.6 NHS England is working with NHS Improvement and the Royal College of Physicians to issue a national patient safety alert (NPSA) to trusts to raise the profile about the move to NEWS2 and set trusts actions in relation to the transition. This includes bringing the alert to the attention of all those with a leadership role; identifying a NEWS2 champion to act as the main contact with NHS England and become part of a network; identifying or establishing a new board reporting committee to plan the adoption of NEWS2 and identifying actions required to ensure, by March 2019, there is trust-wide adoption. The NPSA also outlines a 12 month support offer from NHSE which includes the establishment of a virtual community network of NEWS2 champions, who will receive regular bulletins and information on the latest training; including opportunities to share challenges and best practice via regular webinars; and be given access to resources via an online repository.

### **Further plans**

- 2.7 The next steps to support NEWS2 roll out include:
- Exploring the uptake and accessibility of education and training around NEWS2 for clinicians;
  - Establishing a programme of support for the NEWS2 champions network;
  - Piloting a digital app developed to support NEWS2 roll out in the community;
  - Identifying and sharing best practice to support NEWS2 roll out in the community;
  - Developing an evidence base to support the roll out of NEWS2 in the community; and
  - A national programme of cross-system communications activities to drive delivery of the NEWS2 ambitions.

## **3. Setting up the PEWS programme board**

- 3.1 The first national PEWS (Paediatric Early Warning Score) programme board was held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018. This was led by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) with support from NHS England and



NHS Improvement. The meeting brought together a wide range of child health experts from across the NHS.

- 3.2 Children respond differently to illness and can deteriorate quickly compared to adults. There have been numerous cases where children have not been identified early or received timely treatment which could have saved their life. The purpose of this programme board is to prevent avoidable child deaths by addressing the late or failed recognition of a deteriorating child across all parts of the NHS, including within emergency departments, urgent care settings, primary care, ambulance and 111 services.
- 3.3 In the past, there has been a large amount of work on child deterioration and this has led to the development and adoption of a variety of charts - that record physiological and behavioural observations for the early identification of deterioration - and of wider hospital systems across the country. Whilst many have been adapted and developed specifically for local areas and specialities, there remains concern over consistent use of terminology and confusion in the interpretation of scores. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this is particularly burdensome for staff moving between hospitals, particularly trainees. Notwithstanding, some areas do not have any early identification system in place. Work is needed now to pull together this wide range of initiatives and to progress work on sepsis, infection, fever and more widely on the deteriorating child.
- 3.4 The PEWS board will meet 3-4 times a year and be co-chaired by Carol Ewing from the RCPCH and Celia Ingham-Clark from NHSE. The board will establish several working groups to take forward work. Each working group will have a nominated lead who will be asked to update the board at every PEWS board meeting.