

Note of the National Escalation Pressures Panel meeting

Wednesday 13 February 2019, Skipton House

Panel attendees: Steve Powis (Chair – NHS England), Derek Alderson (Royal College of Surgeons), Paul Cosford (Public Health England), Andrew Goddard (Royal College of Physicians), Richard Peabody (Public Health England), Pauline Philip (National Director for Emergency and Elective Care, NHS England and NHS Improvement), Prem Premachandran (Care Quality Commission), Helen Stokes-Lampard (Royal College of General Practitioners)

1. The Chair welcomed members of the panel to the meeting. The notes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record.
2. The National Director for Emergency and Elective Care updated the group on recent performance. The meeting noted that more patients than ever were being seen within four hours despite increased demand and admissions.
3. The transformation work was having real impact – handovers had improved, and departments were less congested. Improvement was also being seen in some of the most challenged trusts from last year.
4. Public Health England updated on flu. Influenza activity seems to have peaked. The rate of influenza in primary care has been lower this season compared to last. Flu hospitalisation and ICU admission rates reached high impact levels this season, and were at similar levels for ICU/HDU to last year, with impact highest in middle age adults. The latest health care worker vaccination rates were 68.6%, which is 1 percentage point higher than last year.
5. The Chair concluded the meeting and thanked members for their time. A further meeting would be scheduled.