



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

## HSE Safety and Quality Committee Meeting

### Minutes

A meeting of the HSE Safety and Quality Committee was held on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 at 10.30am in Indigo Room, Dr Steevens Hospital, Dublin 8

**Members Present:** Prof Deirdre Madden, Prof Fergus O’Kelly, Dr Cathal O’Keeffe, Ms. Anne Carrigy, Dr Chris Luke, Ms Margaret Murphy.

**Joined by Teleconference:** Ms Yvonne Traynor

**HSE Executive Attendance:** Dr Colm Henry, Dr Philip Crowley, Mr Patrick Lynch, Ms. Niamh Drew, Ms. Joanne Lee

**Joined the Meeting:** Dr Jennifer Martin (Item 2), Dr Ken Beatty (Item 2), Mr Liam Woods (Item 4), Mr David Walsh (Item 4), Mr JP Nolan (Item 4), Mr Risteárd O’Laoide (Item 7), Ms Deirdre McNamara (Item 7), Prof Martin Cormican (Item 8), Ms Shirley Keane (Item 8).

#### 1. Introduction and Chairperson’s Remarks

D Madden took the Chair and welcomed members to the meeting of the Committee.

- Minutes of the Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - Approved.
- Status update of Committee Action Log – Discussed and Noted

No conflict of interest was declared.

The Chair took the opportunity to brief the Committee on a meeting that she attended with the QID Team in relation to Patient and Staff experience and patient/ staff videos. The Chair agreed with the QID Team to identify areas within the Committee’s workplan that could be enhanced with the use of these videos.

The Chair also briefed the Committee on her attendance at the workshop for Consultants not on the Specialist Register that was held on 22 January. The Chair provided a brief overview of the workshop and advised that Prof Frank Murray, National Doctors Training Programme (NDTP), will provide a more detailed report on the matters and discussions which took place, the action plan and agreed next steps. This report will be brought the Committee for further discussion when available.

## **2. Safety and Quality Performance Reporting**

Dr Jennifer Martin and Dr Ken Beatty joined the meeting to discuss the Quality Profile. Dr Martin described to the Committee how the Quality Profile is a valuable tool in overseeing the quality of care by supporting oversight and decision making by analysing and presenting over time and between services the performance across key indicators. This information was provided using Statistical Process Control (SPC) charts. Dr Martin reviewed the SPC charts with the Committee and explained the process in understanding the variations in data.

The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to add this item to the agenda on a monthly basis and for a more detailed briefing to be provided to the Committee every quarter. The Chair also agreed to bring this tool to the Board's attention.

## **3. Risk Management**

P Lynch gave an update on the Risk Management workshops with the Executive Management Team (EMT) on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The document provided to the Committee summarises the existing risks and several new risks that were provisionally identified and agreed at the January 2020 workshop. A further workshop will be held with National Directors to complete risk assessments for each of the risks identified with in their specific areas.

It was agreed that an updated paper on the risk register will be provided to the Joint Audit & Risk and Safety and Quality Committee meeting on 4th February.

## **4. Deep Dive Topic**

The Chair welcomed Mr Liam Woods, National Director Acute Operations, Mr David Walsh, National Director Community Operations and Mr JP Nolan Head of Quality and Safety Community Operations to the meeting to give an overview of the top 3 safety and quality risks in Acute / Community Operation and also to update the Committee on implementation of the ongoing Healthcare Audit recommendations.

The National Director Acute Operations gave an overview of the 3 main risk associated with Acute Hospitals:

- Demand and Access
- Models of Service
- National Equipment Replacement Programme (NERP).

An outline was given of the risks and challenges in these areas which led to a detailed Committee discussion on areas such as Home Support, Assisted Living and the impact to the delivery of services to the Patient and Service user. He also briefly discussed how the backlog of aging medical equipment located within the HSE Clinical Services is increasing and will continue to depreciate if adequate funding is not provided and would have the potential to lead to further safety risks to patients and service users.

A briefing was given on the oversight of implementation of Healthcare Audit Recommendations for Acute Operations. Recommendations are tracked and monitored at hospital level and assurances are provided to the National Director Acute operations with further assurances around all recommendations provided to the Assistant National Director for Quality, Assurance and Verification (QAV).

The National Director Community Operations provided background information on the area of Community Operations to the Committee. He briefed the Committee on top 3 risks relevant to Patient and Service users in Community Operations which included risk of harm to services users due to inability to meet demand, risk of harm to persons due to the prevalence of violence and aggression in Community Healthcare and risk of loss of services due to regulatory action for multi annual non-compliance with the statutory requirements for Approved and Designated Centres.

It was highlighted that the demand for residential placements for people with disabilities continues to grow despite risk control and management and it is still the most significant challenge facing CHOs and Community Operations. A further discussion was had on Assessment of Need and waiting time for early intervention for patients and service users and the demands for service once a diagnosis has been made.

The Committee agreed that the matter raised should be examined in more detail and invited the National Director, Community Operations to attend another meeting at a later date. The Chair and the Committee also very strongly agreed that the issues discussed would be brought to the attention of the HSE Board at the next meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> January.

## **5. Patient Safety Strategy**

Following on from the launch of the Patient Safety Strategy on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019. P Lynch provided a short update to the Committee in relation to implementing the Strategy. Patient representatives were involved in the development of the Strategy and will be involved in the rollout of the Patient Safety Programme workshops in early 2020.

P. Lynch will provide a 3-month review to the Committee.

## **6. Report from CCO**

Dr Henry provided an updated report on the current and strategic safety and quality issues from across the functions of the CCO.

The CCO informed the Committee that he also attended the workshop in relation to Consultants not on the Specialist Register. This workshop was arranged in response to a request that had been made by the HSE Board at a previous meeting seeking for greater levels of assurances to be provided as to the risk to patient safety. He advised that a report on the discussion at workshop will be provided to the Chair of the Safety and Quality Committee by Prof Frank Murray, NDTP for further discussion with Committee and Board Members.

## **7. Interval Cancer Audit Report**

The CCO gave a brief overview of the Interval Cancer Audit Report of the Expert Reference Group and introduced Chair of the Group Prof Risteárd Ó Laoide and Ms Deirdre McNamara to meeting to discuss the report and the recommendations in more detail.

The Committee had an in-depth discussion on the report and raised some concerns regarding some of the recommendations which the Chair agreed to raise with the Board at its next meeting.

## 8. Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control (AMRIC)

The Chair introduced and welcomed Prof Martin Cormican and Ms Shirley Keane to the Committee to provide an overview of Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control.

In his opening statement Prof Cormican took the opportunity to ask the Chair to relay to the HSE Board the importance of hand hygiene in prevention of the spread of Healthcare Associated Infections.

He discussed the issues on Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the issues faced due to antibiotics being less reliable for treatment of infection. As a result, infections are more difficult to treat, outcomes for patients are poorer and costs of healthcare increase. Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) are caused by both wild type bacteria and by AMR bacteria. A number of examples of HCAI were discussed with the Committee using SPC flow charts. The charts showed performance at a national rate over a 2 year period and rates by hospital over a 12 month period for both S.aureus (a bloodstream infection) and C. difficile (a gut bug). It was discussed how cleaning services are a core group of people in helping to fight these bugs.

Two multidisciplinary teams have been set up to mitigate the risks of HCAI, Infection prevention and Control (IPA) and Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS). It was also discussed if funding was available the possibly of a pilot scheme in 4 hospitals with designated IV teams would be set up to try and help reduce the antimicrobial resistance and infection control (ARMIC) by improving how IV's are administered to patients.

P. Lynch noted a lot of work has been carried out in developing protocol around AMRIC and its core principal of focusing on hospitals. It was acknowledged 53 different programmes were being led to improve ARMIC.

The Chair thanked both for attending the meeting and agreed to invite them to come back at a later date to provide an update.

## 9. Any Other Business

Date of Next Meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 10.30am, Indigo Room, Dr Steevens Hospital.

The meeting concluded at 16:45pm

Signed: Deirdre Madden  
Deirdre Madden  
Chairperson

24/11/20  
Date