



NHS County Durham and Darlington

INTEGRATED BUSINESS BOARD

Thursday 25 February 2010

Item No: IBB/10/33

NHS COUNTY DURHAM AND DARLINGTON INTEGRATED BUSINESS BOARD

Patient Safety Assurance Framework

1. Introduction

Ensuring the safety of people who come into contact with health services is one of the most important challenges facing healthcare today and a priority issue for NHS County Durham and Darlington (NHSCDD).

NHSCDD has developed an explicit patient safety and quality assurance framework with clear responsibilities and accountabilities for patient safety, and is closely related to the seven No's of the NHS North East Vision aims, especially:

- no avoidable deaths, injury or illness,
- no avoidable suffering or pain.

2. Implications and risks

Most of the processes integral to patient safety and quality are not new and providers of health care are familiar with processes such as clinical effectiveness and audit, data collection and use of information, evidence based medicine, continuing professional development (CPD), self-regulation and applying lessons from complaints and root cause analysis of critical incidents.

Patient safety and quality within commissioning is about seeking assurance from providers that they bring together these elements for a holistic approach to quality and safety of care provision.

| Document management | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|------------------|--------------|----------|
| Version | Date | Summary | Owner's Name | Approved |
| 1.0 | 25/2/10 | Presented to IBB | Liz Graham | |

A recent internal audit of clinical governance arrangements for independent contractors reported that there was no comprehensive, documented list of assurances required. There was no evidence that the information was obtained and gaps in assurance identified and acted on. Therefore a patient safety assurance framework has been developed to provide NHSCDD integrated business board with the assurance that all appropriate information on the quality and safety of patient care within services commissioned is regularly collected, monitored and verified. The assurance frameworks are attached here for your information.

3. Recommendations

The board is asked to

- approve the use of the patient safety and quality assurance framework in its work with service providers including independent contractor services.

4. Author and sponsor director

Author: Elizabeth Graham
Title: Director of Nursing and Clinical Quality
Date: February 2010

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| Purpose of paper | Information sharing YES Development/discussion YES Decision/action No |
| How does the paper support / have implications for: | |
| NHS County Durham's 4 Strategic Aims | 2 :To help our public keep healthy 3: To ensure high quality care at the most appropriate time and place |
| Our Vision Our Future workstreams | Work streams are engaged in ensuring that we commission safe and effective care |
| World class commissioning competencies | Competencies 1,3,4,5 |
| Standards for better health | Applicable to all core standards |
| Use of resources | Implementation of the patient safety and quality assurance framework, will have a beneficial effect on the use of resources |
| Targets and Vital signs | N/A |
| NHS Constitution | 2, 5 |
| Darzi Principles | Principle 1: change will always be to the benefit of patients, whether in terms of clinical outcomes, experience or safety |
| Impact on / Involvement of partners | Providers are required to provide evidence of assurance / compliance within the framework. |
| Equality & Diversity | No significant impact |
| Other policies / Issues | Patient Safety and Quality Strategy NHS Safer Care North East |