

TRUST BOARD IN PUBLIC		Date: 28th July 2016	
		Agenda Item: 2.3	
REPORT TITLE:		Safety & Quality Committee Update	
NON-EXECUTIVE SPONSOR:		Richard Shaw Chair Safety & Quality Committee	
REPORT AUTHOR (s):		Richard Shaw Chair Safety & Quality Committee	
REPORT DISCUSSED PREVIOUSLY: (name of sub-committee/group & date)		n/a	
Action Required:			
Approval ()	Discussion ()	Assurance (✓)	
Purpose of Report:			
To provide an update of the activities of the safety and quality committee.			
Summary of key issues			
The report provides a summary of the key agenda items which were discussed at the Safety and Quality Committee in July 2016.			
Recommendation:			
N/A			
Relationship to Trust Strategic Objectives & Assurance Framework:			
SO1: Safe – Deliver safe high quality and improving services which pursue perfection and be in the top 20% against our peers SO2: Effective – As a teaching hospital deliver effective, improving and sustainable clinical services within the local health economy SO3: Caring – Working in partnership with staff, families and carers			
Corporate Impact Assessment:			
Legal and regulatory impact	Compliance with CQC, MHRA and Audit Commission		
Financial impact	Serious incidents often become claims		
Patient Experience/Engagement			
Risk & Performance Management	Reporting, investigation and learning from serious incidents informs risk management		
NHS Constitution/Equality & Diversity/Communication			
Attachment: N/A			

Trust Board Report – 28th July 2016 Safety and Quality Committee Chair's Report

The Safety and Quality Committee met on 7th July 2016. The Committee considered its standing items and sought assurance on a number of issues discussed at earlier meetings of the Committee and at the Executive Committee for Quality and Risk. These included:

- Data Quality: The accuracy of records of the date of death of patients is regularly audited, but these continue to show discrepancies with mortuary records. The Committee discussed ways of improving accuracy, including the potential for an IT, as distinct from a training, solution.
- Clinical Audit 2015/16: SQC will receive a report on the outcome of the 2015/16 programme, following discussion at Clinical Effectiveness Committee. This is expected to show improved completion rates and a rationale for decisions not to proceed with some audits.
- CQUIN: SQC noted Executive discussion of the CQUIN programme for 2016/17 and in particular discussed the target for 75% of staff to receive the flu vaccine (or choose not to do so). We endorsed the priority given to this as a way of helping protect patients and colleagues in winter months when the Trust is under high pressure and staff sickness rates tend to be high.
- VTE: The Committee welcomed the progress in moving the recording of VTE assessments from the Patient Tracking System (PTS) onto Powerchart in Cerner. After a transitional period of working in parallel, PTS has now been disabled. Performance is expected to improve from the w/c 11 July.

We took good assurance from the handling of these concerns.

SQC Annual Report to the Board

SQC discussed a draft annual report to the Board on the committee's work during 2015/16 and its principal challenges for the current year. Some additions were made to the section on future challenges and the amended report was commended to the Board.

Diagnostics Deep Dive:

Following last month's deep dive review of diagnostics, when a series of presentations were made covering different parts of the Trust, we received a final presentation on the Emergency Department. It was clear that ED faces particular pressures in diagnostics because patients are expected to be diagnosed and treated, referred or discharged within four hours. Some tests, such as ECG and blood, are therefore requested early in the patient pathway, while CT and X-ray generally follow initial assessment. A number of issues were raised, for example potential over-processing, the checking of blood tests and the system of phoning through abnormal results. SQC has requested that Executives review the points raised in all the presentations and report back to the Committee on their conclusions.

Review of Activity and Safety

SQC discussed an initial report that looked at whether high levels of activity in the Trust, especially over winter months, could potentially have adverse impacts on patient safety. A pressure index has been developed, drawing on several different indicators of busy-ness. This showed that pressure peaked in February this year. There was no clear correlation with any adverse safety impact, although the peak in activity did coincide with increased staff sickness levels and lower patient satisfaction scores in Your Care Matters. Following discussion it was agreed that the next iteration of the report should investigate other potential impacts on safety, including any harm resulting from: cancelled operations; delays in discharge of patients medically ready for discharge; and increased use of agency staff.

Medicine Division: Annual Report

The Committee received a presentation on the work of the Medicine Division, and on its principal achievements and challenges. We took good assurance from the Service's track record of using risk assessments and patient complaints to identify priorities for improvement. Key challenges for the coming year included: providing a seven day week service; confirming the stroke strategy; and meeting the growing demand in Outpatients while improving performance.

Audit on Obtaining Consent

SQC received a presentation on a recent audit on Obtaining Consent in Surgery. This identified scope for improvement in areas such as legibility, avoidance of abbreviations and ensuring proper completion of forms. Actions have been taken through training and a more rigorous insistence on completion of consent forms prior to surgery. We took good assurance from this and also suggested that a further audit might look into patient understanding of the risks and benefits of surgery.

Next Meeting

The next SQC meeting is at 2pm on 4th August.

Richard Shaw
Non-Executive Director
Chair – Safety & Quality Committee
July 2016