



Patient Safety Alerts

NHS England has launched January 31 2014, a new alerting system that will ensure warnings of potential risks to the safety of patients can be developed much more quickly and be rapidly disseminated right across the NHS.

The new National Patient Safety Alerting System (NPSAS) will ensure warnings of emerging risks can be rapidly issued following their identification by the NHS England Patient Safety Domain. As part of the new process, by April 2014 NHS England will also begin publishing monthly data on trusts who fail to confirm they have complied with the required actions of an alert within the set timeframe.

The new system has three stages and is based on those used in other high-risk industries like aviation. Now, when a potential risk to safety is identified:

- A Stage One “warning” alert is issued to ensure healthcare staff are made aware of the potential issue at the earliest opportunity. This allows hospitals, clinics and other healthcare organisations to assess similar risks in their own organisations, and take immediate action.
- If the Stage One alert requires further action, a Stage Two “resource” alert will follow, with more in-depth information and advice. Stage Two alerts will include examples of good practice to mitigate the risk that have been shared by providers following a Stage One alert; access to resources to help introduce new measures to reduce risks; and access to relevant training programmes.
- If necessary, a Stage Three “directive” alert will be issued, requiring organisations to confirm that they have undertaken specific actions and introduced specific processes to mitigate the risk. Providers will be issued with a checklist of required actions, tailored to the individual issue, and will need to confirm these actions have been taken within a set timeframe.

Further information can be found at the following link. Please feel free to share this with all interested parties.

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/patientsafety/psa/>