



Patient Safety Alert

Stage Two: Resources

Patient safety incident reporting and responding to Patient Safety Alerts

20 April 2016

Alert reference number: NHS/PSA/RE/2016/003

Alert stage: Two - Resources

On 1 April 2016 the statutory patient safety functions previously delivered within NHS England transferred to NHS Improvement. These functions have the responsibility for operating the National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS), and responsibility for using information from the NRLS, and elsewhere, to develop advice and guidance for the NHS on reducing risks to patients. The primary method for issuing such advice and guidance is through the National Patient Safety Alerting System.

The national patient safety team has transferred from NHS England to NHS Improvement, but continues to lead nationally on NHS patient safety policy in relation to all providers of NHS-funded care, including NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts, primary care providers and social enterprises, among others. Providers themselves remain responsible for the safety of the services they provide to patients.

From the perspectives of providers of NHS-funded care, existing processes and policies for incident reporting and receiving and acting on national Patient Safety Alerts will not change.

Processes and requirements for reporting to the National Reporting and Learning System through upload from local risk management systems, or via the e-form will not change. Support with NRLS reporting can be accessed at <https://report.nrls.nhs.uk/nrlsreporting/> including resources outlining requirements for timeliness of reporting, for excluding person-identifiable information, and for accurate use of degree of harm (particularly before selecting death or severe harm). NRLS data publications will continue on regular schedules available at www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/patient-safety-data/.

Existing NHS policies regarding patient safety, such as the Serious Incident Framework 2015 and Never Events Framework 2015, continue to apply. Requirements to report serious incidents, including never events, to the Strategic Executive Information System (StEIS) are unchanged. Revised Serious Incident Framework FAQs have recently been published at improvement.nhs.uk/resources/serious-incident-framework. Future revisions of these policies will be led by the national patient safety team and enquires can continue to be directed to patientsafety.enquiries@nhs.net. Publications related to never events published after 1 April 2016, including provisional monthly data, will be available at improvement.nhs.uk/resources/never-events-policy-and-framework.

National Patient Safety Alerts (Warning, Resource and Directive alerts) will now be issued by NHS Improvement via the Central Alerting System and will also be available at improvement.nhs.uk/news-alerts/?articletype=patient-safety-alert. Previous alerts issued by NHS England remain valid and providers of NHS-funded care should continue to complete actions required by these alerts.

For any general patient safety enquiries, please email patientsafety.enquiries@nhs.net.

Actions

Who: All organisations providing NHS-funded care

When: To start immediately and to be completed by no later than 3 June 2016

- 1 Ensure your organisation has systems that continue to meet the existing requirements related to patient safety incident reporting outlined in this alert.
- 2 Ensure your organisation has systems that continue to meet the existing requirements related to responding to National Patient Safety Alerts outlined in this alert.
- 3 Ensure local processes or policies are updated where required to reflect the move of national patient safety responsibilities to NHS Improvement.
- 4 Circulate this alert to all relevant staff with involvement in processes or policies for reporting incidents and responding to Patient Safety Alerts.

See page two for a list of resources relating to this alert

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Resources

Patient safety incident reporting

- Support with National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS) reporting <https://report.nrls.nhs.uk/nrlsreporting/>
- NRLS data publications www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/patient-safety-data/

Serious Incident Framework and never events

- Revised Serious Incident Framework and FAQs improvement.nhs.uk/resources/serious-incident-framework/
- Revised Never Events Policy and Framework and 2015/16 never events list improvement.nhs.uk/resources/never-events-policy-and-framework/
- Never events incident data improvement.nhs.uk/resources/never-events-data/

Patient Safety Alerts

- NHS Improvement issued Patient Safety Alerts (alerts issued post 1 April 2016) improvement.nhs.uk/news-alerts/?articletype=patient-safety-alert
- NHS England issued Patient Safety Alerts (December 2013-March 2016) www.england.nhs.uk/patientsafety/psa/
- National Patient Safety Agency issued Patient Safety Alerts (2002-2012) www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/alerts/
- Patient Safety Alert organisational compliance data improvement.nhs.uk/resources/data-patient-safety-alert-compliance/
- Central Alerting System (CAS) <https://www.cas.dh.gov.uk/Home.aspx>