Patient safety update – 27 July 2021

Patient safety update from the NHS National Patient Safety Team

This update pulls together key information that you or your clinical governance/patient safety leads might need to know but could otherwise miss. It is not intended for general circulation within your organisations.

Key messages	Information for safety leaders
• Be aware of the risk stratification tool to provide support to clinicians responsible for offering advice to patients around issues with Philips ventilators and CPAP	1. Philips recently published two Field Safety Notices (FSNs) (for Ventilators and CPAP) due to the risk that the polyester-based polyurethane (PE-PUR) sound abatement foam used in Philips Continuous and Non-Continuous Ventilators may degrade into particles which be ingested or inhaled by the user, and the foam may emit certain chemicals. The MHRA followed this up by publishing a National Patient Safety Alert in relation to this issue. The British Thoracic Society has now published a risk stratification tool to provide support to clinicians responsible for offering clinical advice to their patients. Both the FSNs and the MHRA information advise patients should continue to use these products unless otherwise advised by their clinician and seek clinical advice on where an alternative device would be appropriate. The risk stratification tool gives guidance on management of both existing and new patients. FAQs are also available.
• Encourage colleagues, including in primary care, to sign up to and use the new 'Learn from Patient Safety Events' service	2. A very significant milestone for the Patient Safety Strategy was reached when the new Learn from patient safety events' (LFPSE) service was launched on 19 July. This new service will replace the National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS) and StEIS in due course. More information is provided in the 'In Focus' article below. Please encourage colleagues, particularly in primary care, to sign up to and use the new service to record patient safety events such as risks, incidents and outcomes of concern, to enable national and local safety improvement.
• Staff and visitors must continue to wear face coverings	3. Public Health England's IPC guidance remains in place across all healthcare settings. Last week it was publicly restated that everyone accessing or visiting healthcare settings must continue to wear a face covering and follow social distancing rules. This allows the NHS to maintain the safest possible environment for our staff and patients and minimise nosocomial infections.
• Be aware of guidance for allowing essential frontline staff to return to work following a negative PCR if they have been asked to isolate	4. The government has changed its guidance on self-isolation for health and social care staff. Where circumstances allow, double-vaccinated staff can now return to work subject to additional testing. This letter explains the criteria and safeguards needed, supported by local governance to ensure compliance and a clear record of decisions made with employees and managers. Patient and staff safety remains the paramount concern, and risk assessments should be used to decide if someone's return to work would be appropriate. Options include redeploying people who usually care for highly vulnerable patients, or working outside of designated green areas. Your continued focus on IPC best practice is critical.
• Be aware of the required actions of	5. On 14 July 2021 we issued a National Patient Safety Alert asking GPs and other NHS providers of anticoagulation services to identify any

our National Patient Safety Alert	patients who have a record of having a prosthetic mechanical heart valve and are receiving a direct oral anticoagulant (DOAC); and to urgently review these patients to ensure they are on the most appropriate anticoagulation therapy and monitoring.
• Encourage your local care homes to complete the Deterioration Tool Survey	6. The Managing Deterioration Safety Improvement Team, working with the AHSNs and Patient Safety Collaboratives, recently circulated a Deterioration Tool Survey via the Care Homes Capacity Tracker. This survey will help the team understand how many care homes are already using tools to spot when their residents are becoming unwell, which types of tools are being used and how often, and where more support is needed. Please encourage your local care homes to complete the survey. Find more information about different types of deterioration and structured communication tools on the Care homes	AHSN Network page.
• Read the latest HSIB investigation report	7. HSIB published its latest investigation report on 14 July 2021, focusing on the equipment used in maternity units across England to carry out continuous fetal heart rate monitoring during labour and birth.
Send any queries on this update to patientsafety.enquiries@nhs.net	

In focus: Launch of Learn from patient safety events service

A very significant milestone for the Patient Safety Strategy has been reached as the new 'Learn from patient safety events' (LFPSE) service (formerly known during development as DPSIMS - Development of the Patient Safety Incident Management System), is now live as we commence its public beta stage. The new service will eventually replace the current National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS) and Strategic Executive Information System (StEIS).

The service is a major upgrade, creating the first single NHS system for recording patient safety events. It introduces improved capabilities for the analysis of patient safety events occurring across healthcare, and enables better use of the latest technology, such as machine learning, to create outputs that offer a greater depth of insight and learning that are more relevant to the current NHS environment.

LFPSE service will offer better support for staff from all health and care sectors to record safety events, and provide greater insight and analysis to aid national and local safety improvement.

Organisations will be able to connect to LFPSE in one of two ways:

- Organisations NOT currently reporting to the NRLS via a Local Risk Management System (LRMS), such as many primary care organisations, and their staff, should register now for an account and begin to use the online Learn from patient safety events service to record safety events immediately.

- Other organisations with an LRMS, typically trusts, will need to upgrade their LRMS to be LFPSE compliant. Once organisations have upgraded to an LFPSE compliant LRMS, they will be able start uploading safety events to LFPSE. All organisations with an LRMS should continue to upload to the NRLS until their system has been upgraded and they have confirmation from the LFPSE team they are connected to LFPSE.

You can find out more on our updated LFPSE webpage, which includes further details of how the system is being rolled out. We have also created a new webpage, providing specific information for primary care and other organisations without a local risk management system (LRMS).

As this is a new service, it is very important that people use it and provide feedback on how it can be improved. Please send any feedback to itservicedesk@nhseandi.nhs.uk .