

The West of England Academic Health Science Network (WEAHSN)
Mortality Review Collaborative

Brief Background

The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) has commissioned the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) and Yorkshire and Humber AHSN, in partnership with the Royal College of Nursing, AvMA and Datix to develop have a standardised approach to mortality case record reviews for adult deaths in acute hospitals in England and Scotland.

How the AHSN got involved and the aim of the collaborative

As a key conduit to spreading innovation and initiatives around patient safety, the WEAHSN was approached with a request for the West of England to be one of the pilot sites for the programme by the RCP. Since then, all our six acute trusts, as well as Salisbury and Taunton hospitals have joined with the WEAHSN mortality review collaborative.

How we plan to work together and implement the standardised approach

We have adopted a phased approach which sees three of our trusts introducing the process in phase one, sharing their learning and experiences with the remaining sites and wider stakeholders such as the RCP and other pilot sites. Introduction of the new review process commenced with training in structured case record review provided by the RCP team.

The collaborative is co-ordinated by a Steering Group facilitated by the WEAHSN. All trusts are able to adapt their adoption of the structured case records reviews to make them locally relevant. Progress, including barriers and successes are shared through the Steering Group.

The second phase will involve structured case record review training for the remaining trusts in late spring 2017, supported by the learning from the first wave and national programme.

As the collaborative progresses, and the process becomes clearer, a best practice framework will be developed to support trusts in their rollout and future management of structured mortality reviews.

First wave

- University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
- Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Swindon)
- Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust

The remaining trusts within the collaborative are:

- North Bristol NHS Trust
- Weston Area Health NHS Trust
- Gloucestershire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust
- Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

All trusts in the collaborative were represented at the train the trainer event In October to understand the process and are currently preparing for local rollout of the structured process.

How are we involving Primary Care?

The national programme is concentrated on the acute sector; however Primary Care colleagues have been involved in the collaborative since the start. The aim is to establish a system that ensures that learning from structured mortality review is shared as widely as possible. Primary Care representatives are active members of our Steering Group.

How are we involving Patient and Public Contributors?

Patient and Public Contributors (PPI) representatives play a key role in all the work programmes undertaken within the WEAHSN and act as a conduit between healthcare and the public. Two PPI representatives are members of the Mortality Review Steering Group and are contributing to the development of the work programme.

Members of the collaborative have been asked to consider how they will involve their local Patient and Public groups when undertaking local implementation.

The PPI members of the Steering Group have helped to produce a public statement on the programme and their role. The aim is for patients and families to understand that a consistent, structured approach to reviews will result in the identification of areas for improvements in care.

Benefits of undertaking the collaborative and the West of England approach

- Concentrating on the factors that contribute to unnecessary deaths in hospitals will impact positively on all patients, including those who survive, by reducing complications, length of stay and readmission rates. This in turn brings added benefits to our collaborative members.
- The wider gathering of themes may identify areas where we need to improve our approaches to End of Life Care at a West of England Collaborative based level.
- Other themes may emerge potentially leading to further collective or collaborative work, and providing overview of the West of England, potentially lead to individual pieces of work to further enhance patient safety. The themes may also align with current areas of work being delivered by the WEAHSN, such as the deteriorating patient or medicines projects.
- National recognition as the first 'collaborative' to undertake the structured reviews.
- Ability to shape how we develop and implement the programme locally to ensure the best fit for our region.
- Whilst the initial focus is on the acute system approach, involving Primary Care 'closes the loop' and other areas of work for Primary Care/Community are already starting to be identified.