

Commission on Patient Safety and Quality Assurance

Minutes of 12th meeting

17th January 2008

Summary of Action Points

	Action	By whom	Deadline
1	Correspondence to be acknowledged	Chair	ASAP
2	Document from GS1 to be reviewed	T. Delaney	Before next meeting
3	Discussion paper to be prepared on possible Licensing Authority	D. Smyth	Before next meeting
4	1 st Draft of Report to be prepared	Drafting Group	13 – 14 March meeting
5	Subgroup reports to be produced	Chair of each subgroup	ASAP
	Circulate	Secretariat	

Commission Members in attendance:

Chair: Dr. Deirdre Madden, Senior Lecturer in Law, University College Cork
Dr. Richard Brennan, General Practitioner, Kilkenny
Dr. Eibhlín Connolly, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dept of Health and Children
Mr. Tim Delaney, Head of Pharmacy, AMNCH
Ms. Edwina Dunne, Head of Quality & Risk, HSE
Prof. Muiris X. FitzGerald, Physician
Dr. Mary Hynes, Director of Quality and Risk, National Hospitals Office, HSE
Ms Margaret Murphy, Patient/Carer representative, Cork
Dr. Alf Nicholson, Consultant Paediatrician, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital (Sub-group morning session)
Dr. Ailis Quinlan, Clinical Indemnity Scheme
Mr Dermot Smyth, Assistant Secretary, Department of Health and Children

Secretariat:

Mr. Luke Mulligan, Department of Health and Children
Ms. Elaine Tallon, Department of Health and Children
Ms. Ailish Corr, Department of Health and Children

Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked those in attendance.

Agenda Item 1 – Apologies

Dr. Tracey Cooper, CEO, Health Information and Quality Authority
Ms. Mary Duff, Director of Nursing, St. Vincent's Hospital
Mr Paul Fox, Process Engineering Manager, Bausch and Lomb, Waterford
Mr Tiberius Pereira, Patient/Carer Representative, Dublin
Dr. Gabriel Scally, Regional Director of Public Health, NHS

Agenda Item 2 - Minutes of Previous Meeting / matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Action points from minutes

Action Point 1 – Drafting Group formed – first meeting held on 10th January 2008.
Next meeting scheduled for 21st February 2008.

Action Point 2 – Additional research provided to support subgroup 1.

Action Point 3 – List of individuals/organisations invited to make submissions circulated.

Action Point 4 – Subgroup reports circulated.

Agenda Item 3 – Correspondence

The Chair received a report from Global Standards 1 (GS1) Ltd produced in conjunction with the HSE entitled “Reducing Risk through Certainty”. It was agreed that Tim Delaney will review this document and report back to the Commission.

The Chair received a letter from Joint Commission International (JCI) and enclosure “Patient Safety Solutions Preamble – May 2007”. JCI requested an opportunity to meet with the Commission. This is not possible due to time constraints. It was agreed that the Chair will acknowledge.

E-mail received by Chair from the Harley Medical Group requesting meeting to discuss regulation of cosmetic surgery in Ireland. The Commission felt that there was a good understanding in the Group about the issues involved and that a meeting was not necessary at this time.

Chair received letter from Medical Director of the paediatric intensive care unit in Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, re service delivery. It was agreed that the Commission has no remit in this area. It was agreed that the Chair will acknowledge.

An anonymous letter was received in relation to mental health services. This will be forwarded to the Mental Health Commission for information.

Agenda Item 4 – Reports from subgroups.

Each of the sub-groups gave a summary of the areas covered by them during the day and the issues that arose.

Sub-group 1 did not meet on this occasion. Dr. Connolly gave a brief summary of their future work plan. Dr. Kavanagh and Dr. Mulholland are undertaking research for the subgroup – Dr. Kavanagh into evidence-based practice and health informatics and Dr. Mulholland into governance and accountability structures.

Dr. Connolly outlined the draft structure, building blocks and enablers which will form the basis of their Report i.e.

Achieving organisational change - values and culture
Defining quality and safety

The building blocks -
Informed patients
Skilled professionals
Effective treatments
Appropriate environments
Assessed outcomes

The enablers -
National strategic framework
Systems of governance and accountability
Health information and ICT
Measurement against standards
Education and training
Patient empowerment and involvement

Conclusions and recommendations

Subgroup 2 discussed a number of recommendations based on a paper on open disclosure. These recommendations are:

- The requirement for legislative reform to support qualified privilege
- The need for training and education to be embedded in under and post graduate curricula in the area of open disclosure – with an emphasis on self-awareness.
- The need for institutional training to support any education in this area
- The need for institutional structures to be put in place prior to training to support the handling of adverse events.

A paper is also being prepared on Medication Safety which will be discussed at the next sub-group meeting.

Subgroups 3 and 4 discussed the value of licensing/regulation. It was noted that while it is difficult to find robust evidence to show that licensing will make institutions safer for patients, it is the key to bringing together all elements of the quality and safety agenda. It was stressed that absence of evidence does not mean

absence of effectiveness. It was also noted that regulation of healthcare is increasing internationally. The Commission needs first to consider whether there should be a statutory system of licensing in Ireland, of so should it be mandatory and apply to public and private healthcare facilities?

There was a discussion on the definition of licensing and the services that should be licensed in the Irish context. Several options were discussed in relation to the question of who should be the licensing body/authority. Further work will be done in relation to this issue for the next meeting.

Governing Bodies in healthcare system:

A final paper was presented to inform recommendations to be made by the Commission in the area of the governance of regulatory bodies in the health care system and ways in which effective integration can be enabled between the various bodies. Additional research was presented on the Health and Disability Commissioner (HDC) in New Zealand.

Subgroup 3 will make recommendations in relation to the following at the next meeting:

Is there a need/role for an overarching body in the area of healthcare regulation which would harmonise and coordinate health profession regulators?

Should a new 'stand alone' body be established or should an existing body be enhanced?

Should credentialing be used as a professional regulatory intervention in Ireland?

Agenda Item 5 – Presentation by Chair on Revised Structure for Report

Following a meeting of the Drafting Group on 10th January some revision was made to the planned structure of the report. There was a detailed discussion of the structure of the report and agreement as to who would be responsible for writing initial drafts of various sections.

The following points were noted in relation to the structure of the final report:

- Education and training aspects are to be incorporated into the recommendations of each chapter.
- Key Recommendations to be included in the Forward.
- Other recommendations at the end of each chapter, evidence-based and cross-referenced to the Terms of Reference.
- The web Report will have links to references rather than appendices.

It was agreed that a first draft would be available for the 12-13th March meeting of the Commission.

Next meeting

Friday 15th February 2008 –

Venue: Conrad Hotel, Dublin 2

Signed _____

Dr Deirdre Madden

Chairperson

Commission on Patient Safety and Quality Assurance

Date _____