

Commission on Patient Safety and Quality Assurance

Minutes of 5th meeting

31st May 2007

Summary of Action Points

	Action	By whom	Deadline
1	Administrative resources to be sought for sub-group 1 to facilitate research support	HSE	Next Meeting
2	Circulate dates to determine availability of members for the meeting scheduled for 5 July or alternative dates	Secretariat	ASAP
3	Subgroup reports to be produced	Chair (or deputy 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
Dr. Tracey Cooper, CEO, Health Information and Quality Authority
Ms. Edwina Dunne, Head of Quality & Risk, HSE
Mr Paul Fox, Process Engineering Manager, Bausch and Lomb, Waterford
Dr. Mary Hynes, Director of Quality and Risk, National Hospitals Office, Health Services Executive
Ms Margaret Murphy, Patient/Carer representative, Cork City
Mr Tiberius Pereira, Patient/Carer Representative, Dublin
Dr. Ailis Quinlan, Clinical Indemnity Scheme
Dr. Gabriel Scally, Regional Director of Public Health, NHS
Mr Dermot Smyth, Assistant Secretary, Department of Health and Children

Secretariat:

Mr Luke Mulligan, Department of Health and Children
Ms. Susan Reilly, Department of Health and Children
Mr Aidan Clancy, Department of Health and Children
Ms Ailish Corr, Department of Health and Children

Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed Luke Mulligan, Principal Officer, Patient Safety and Quality Unit, Department of Health and thanked those in attendance.

Agenda Item 1 – Apologies

Mr. Tim Delaney, Head of Pharmacy, AMNCH

Ms. Mary Duff, SRN, Director of Nursing, St. Vincent's Hospital

Dr. Alf Nicholson, Consultant Paediatrician, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital

Agenda Item 2 - Minutes of Previous Meeting / matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed

Action points from minutes

Action Point 1 – It was noted that two people had now been identified as being suitable and available to provide research assistance to the subgroups.

1. Ms. Hilary Coates, HIQA – support for subgroup 2
2. Mr. Aidan Clancy, DoHC – support for subgroup 3

The HSE, through Dr. Pat Doorley, National Director of Population Health, has committed to providing research support for the remaining subgroup. It was agreed that a job specification would be drawn up as soon as possible to enable the most appropriate person to be recruited for this work.

It was noted that there were significant similarities between the work of subgroups and ongoing work by the Head of Consumer Affairs, HSE. It was agreed that the group would discuss means by which that expertise might be made available to the subgroups.

Action Point 2 – There was discussion in relation to a number of possible speakers who might be available to the Commission in the coming months. It was agreed that no firm commitment would be made to potential speakers at this time and that this issue would be re-considered in the autumn. It was also agreed that speakers would be invited to address the Commission on specific topics, rather than on broad areas

Action Point 3 – The Chair noted that subgroup reports had been completed and circulated.

Agenda Item 3 – Correspondence

Members were advised of correspondence from Prof. Fergal Malone, Professor of Obstetrics, RCSI, informing the Chair of his decision to resign his position on the Commission. The group was advised that a replacement for Prof. Malone was being sought.

The Chair outlined the content of other correspondence received in relation to the importance of governance issues in the health service.

Agenda Item 4 - Subgroups

Each subgroup Chair presented a verbal report from the earlier subgroup meetings. A written report from each subgroup will be prepared by the Chair of each subgroup and circulated via the Secretariat.

Concern was expressed by one member in relation to the absence of a HIQA representative on subgroup 3, which is exploring the scope of a licensing system, as HIQA will be charged with implementing any future licensing system. There was discussion of this issue and it was agreed that rather than co-opt additional members to the sub-groups, persons with particular expertise and experience should be invited to present to the relevant sub-group or to attend and participate in some meetings as required. One member strongly objected to this decision.

There was discussion about the wisdom of transferring models of good practice from other jurisdictions or locations as they are not always readily transferable due to cultural and other factors. The relevance of examples of good practice from other industrial sectors, such as aviation, was noted.

It was noted that Dr. Paul Kavanagh had given a very useful presentation to subgroup 1 on Health system responses to patient safety and quality assurance in health care. It was agreed that he would be invited to present to the plenary session of the Commission at a future meeting.

It was agreed that it may be necessary to refine the subgroup terms of reference to minimise overlap, and sub-groups 1 and 2 in particular will concentrate at their next meeting on scoping out their areas of activity.

Agenda Item 5 – Structure of Final Report

A comprehensive discussion took place on the structure of the report and the following points were noted:

- The structure as suggested by the Chair and circulated via e-mail was a useful starting point for the work-plan of each sub-group;
- Each sub-group would prepare a report using the same generic headings i.e.

- setting the scene – current position
 - problems – risk factors for patient safety
 - goals/values – identify
 - review of national and international models – what models exist
 - application – how can best models be applied in Ireland
 - recommendations.

- In order to keep to the timescale given to the group i.e. 18 months, each subgroup is asked to present its report to the Commission in January 08;
- This work is contingent on suitably qualified research support being available as soon as possible;

- The final report should reflect the values and principles of the Commission i.e. person-centred etc;
- The importance of having specific achievable recommendations was stressed – recommendations should be feasible as well as visionary;
- In the case where recommendations are not evidence-based, some explanation of how the recommendation was reached should be given.
- A short discussion took place on the extent to which the Commission should consider the economic impact of their recommendations. The point was made that many safety improvements could be achieved at minimal cost. It was suggested that costings might be expressed in a general way as consideration of economic impact is not within the Commission’s terms of reference.

Agenda Item 6 – Any other Business

A website for the Commission is under development. Members were asked to access the site and forward any observations to the Secretariat. It was agreed that the minutes of all meetings to date would be put on the site.

The following presentations to the Commission were requested.

- Mr. Paul Fox – 14 June
- Dr. Gabriel Scally – 14 June
- Dr. Tracey Cooper – 5 July

Next meeting

Thursday 14th June – Conrad Hotel, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2

Signed _____

Date _____

Dr Deirdre Madden
 Chairperson
 Commission on Patient Safety and Quality Assurance