

**ITEM: 8**

**MEETING: Trust Board 15 March 2006**

**TITLE: Healthcare Commission Core standards**

**SUMMARY:** The final declaration to the Healthcare Commission against the 24 core standards is due at the end of April. The initial assessment undertaken in preparation for the draft declaration in October 2005 has therefore been reviewed, to ensure that the evidence for each standard is complete and covers the whole financial year.

Attached is a summary of the revised evidence for the standards where the assessment has changed from that submitted in the draft declaration. This will leave the Trust as having not met two standards, and compliant with all the others. The standard on complaints management remains non-compliant, even though there has been a significant improvement since October, as the declaration covers the whole year. The decontamination standard is not met as a result of the SUI.

The assessment against key standards has also been presented to Haringey Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 1 March, and to Islington OSC on 7 March. The Whittington Patient Forum meets on 15 March, when they will consider the revised evidence. The process the SHA will be adopting is not yet clear.

Assurance Committee will be meeting on 19 April to review the assessment against each standard in more detail, prior to submission to the Healthcare Commission. Trust Board is therefore asked to:

1. agree the revised assessment against the four standards.
2. agree to delegate authority to sign off the final declaration to Assurance Committee

**ACTION: For agreement**

**REPORT FROM:** Deborah Wheeler, Director of Nursing & Clinical Development



	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Oct status</b>	<b>Current assessment</b>
C2	Healthcare organisations protect children by following national child protection guidelines within their own activities and in their dealings with other organisations.	Insufficient assurance	<p align="center"><b>Compliant</b></p> <p>Child protection (CP) nurse post has been covered since April 05 (temporary arrangements first &amp; now substantive)  Revised CP structures now in place (Safeguarding team), with additional post for CP. Also have named midwife for CP.  CP Forum meets quarterly, chaired by Dir. Nursing. Members include designated nurses for Haringey &amp; Islington PCTs.  Pan London CP guidelines implemented  CP awareness training on induction &amp; mandatory training for all staff  Audits of notes involving CP concerns undertaken – no evidence of missed cases.  All relevant policies are in place across the hospital</p>
C4c	Reusable medical devices are properly decontaminated prior to use and the risks associated with decontamination facilities & processes are well managed.	Compliant	<p align="center"><b>Not met</b></p> <p>There were a number of incidents in October &amp; November 2005 where theatre instruments were not fully decontaminated before being sterilised. This led to delays in the operating theatre schedules at the time, but did not pose any direct clinical risk to patients, as they were identified as part of the theatre preparation procedures. A Serious Untoward Incident panel was established, to review all sterile services and theatres processes for the management of instruments. The panel has met &amp; interviewed witnesses &amp; the report is due in March. Concerns have been identified re practices in TSSU &amp; also problems with environment.</p> <p>The Trust is now working with the North West London sector consortium to agree a contract for provision of sterile services off-site</p>



			in a purpose built facility from 2007.
C14a	Patients, relatives & carers have clear access to a formal complaints system	Not met	<p><b>Not met (compliant since Oct05)</b></p> <p>Additional management time &amp; priority given to timely investigation of complaints. Oct-Dec05 85% of complaints were responded to within 20 days. Fewer people were dissatisfied with complaint responses in 05/06 (13%;14% in 04/05)</p>
C23	Systematic & managed disease prevention & health promotion programmes which meet requirements of NSFs & national plans, including reducing obesity through action on nutrition & exercise, smoking, substance misuse & STIs	Insufficient assurance	<p><b>Compliant</b></p> <p>Meeting with Islington Director of Public Health on 21 Feb identified following evidence:</p> <p>all inpatients have nutritional assessment on admission, with criteria for referral to dietician.</p> <p>Antenatal STI testing processes in place – identified high local rates of HepB infection. Monitored through quarterly reports from HPA</p> <p>NSF for older people work includes falls prevention programmes, with referrals from inpatients/DWDH, promotion of winter “keep warm, keep well” initiatives, nutritional advice &amp; support.</p> <p>NSF for CHD work includes exercise referrals for patients, promotion of &amp; access to stop smoking clinics, anticoagulation monitoring &amp; advice</p> <p>Haematology patients have strong emphasis placed on healthy lifestyle (nutrition, access to employment, etc) working to reduce admission to hospital. Significant reduction in regular admissions over last 5 years</p> <p>Pilot scheme begun to promote referral to stop smoking clinic as part of pre-admission assessment for surgical patients.</p> <p>Links with North Islington drug</p>



			<p>service. Specialist nurse accepts referral direct from ward staff.</p> <p>OH dept run cardiac health checks for all staff over 55.</p> <p>Promotion of cycling for staff to travel to work; bike loans available; cycle users group run on site; "bike doctor" event annually</p> <p>Subsidised membership of local gyms for staff</p>
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### **Timetable for submission**

Evidence against key standards has been presented to Haringey & Islington Overview & Scrutiny Committees & their commentary is awaited. The PPI Forum public meeting is on 15 March, following which we expect to receive their commentary. Arrangements for receiving comments from the Strategic Health Authority are not yet clear.

The deadline for submission to the Healthcare Commission is 4 May. The final declaration will only be submitted in electronic format; there is no requirement for a hard copy signed by Board members, as with the draft declaration.

As Trust Board does not meet again until May 2006, Board members are asked to agree the delegation of responsibility for reviewing the full assessment against each standard to the Assurance Committee, which has arranged to meet on 19 April. The final declaration will then be circulated to all Board members for final comments before submission.

