Supporting the introduction of the National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures

To: All NHS Wales Chief Executives, Medical Directors, Directors of Nursing and Patient Safety Teams.

Never Events related to invasive procedures comprise over 65% of all reported Never Events in NHS Wales. The total number of Never Events reported between 16 October 2014 and 15 October 2015 was 24; 16 of these related to invasive procedures:

- Total number of wrong site surgery = 4
- Total number of retained foreign object post procedure = 8
- Total number of wrong implant/prosthesis = 4

Reports show these Never Events occur in a wide range of invasive procedures in varying specialties. Further information which draws learning from Never Events across NHS Wales can be found at http://www.patientsafety.wales.nhs.uk/never-events.

As a result of similar issues in England, a ‘Surgical Never Events Taskforce’ was commissioned by NHS England to examine the reasons for the persistence of these Never Events and to produce a report making recommendations on how their occurrence could be minimised. Their report, published in 2014, recommended the development of high-level national standards that would support all providers of NHS-funded care to develop and maintain their own more detailed local standards.

As it is recognised that ‘surgical’ Never Events are relevant to all clinical settings where invasive procedures are undertaken, the decision was taken to broaden the scope of the standards to include all invasive procedures in which a Never Event could potentially occur. Evidence-based standards that build on the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist approach were developed and tested by clinical experts and formally endorsed by a number of organisations. The standards, named National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures (NatSSIPs) were initially published in England; they have been adapted for issue in Wales.

NatSSIPs address many of the underlying causes of Never Events; compliance with them will also help ensure that evidence-based best practice is implemented and consequently that the number of patient safety incidents occurring in association with invasive procedures is reduced.

Actions

Who: All organisations providing NHS-funded care.

When: To be completed by no later than 28 September 2017.

1. Agree Executive Director with lead responsibility for ensuring all relevant staff are aware of the National Safety Standards for Invasive Surgical Procedures (NatSSIPs) and are supported in developing Local Safety Standards for Invasive Surgical Procedures (LocSSIPs).

2. Identify all procedures undertaken across clinical settings in your organisation that the NatSSIPs are applicable to.

3. For these identified clinical procedures, develop and test LocSSIPs based on the relevant NatSSIPs.

4. Commence implementation of procedures and practice compliant with LocSSIPs within cycles of continuous improvement including teamwork and training, human factors and cultural aspects of compliance.

Share any learning from local investigations or locally developed good practice resources by emailing:

ImprovingPatientSafety@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Queries should be sent to: ImprovingPatientSafety@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK

www.patientsafety.wales.nhs.uk
Alongside the publication of the Standards and this Patient Safety Notice, learning events in partnership with 1000 Lives Improvement will be organised to support and enable local sharing and lessons learnt. Support will also be provided through the professional organisations endorsing the NasSSIPs.

As we learn about the creation of LocSSIPs, the implementation of new ways of working in response, and include learning from reported safety incidents, the NatSSIPs will be amended and adapted; further work will include the consideration of any specific requirements for general practice.

References


3 The National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures (NatSSIPs) NHS Wales September 2016 http://www.patientsafety.wales.nhs.uk/

The NatSSIPs have been fully endorsed by the following organisations:

- Association for Perioperative Practice
- Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland
- College of Operating Department Practitioners
- General Dental Council
- General Medical Council
- Health and Care Professions Council
- Nursing & Midwifery Council
- Royal College of Anaesthetists
- Royal College of Emergency Medicine
- Royal College of Midwives
- Royal College of Nursing
- Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists
- Royal College of Ophthalmologists
- Royal College of Physicians
- Royal College of Radiologists
- Royal College of Surgeons
- 1000 Lives Improvement Service
- Healthcare Inspectorate Wales
- All Wales Theatre Manager’s Forum
- Clinical Directors for Surgery – South East Wales
- Shared Services Partnership – Legal & Risk

The NatSSIPs were adapted for issue in Wales with kind permission from NHS England.