

SAFETY AND QUALITY LEARNING LETTER

Subject	Communication of Patients' Risk Status for CJD
HSCB reference number	LL/SAI/2013/021 (AS) (REVISED)
Programme of care	Acute

LEARNING SOURCE			
SAI/Early Alert/Adverse incident	√	Complaint	
Audit or other review		Coroner's inquest	
Other (Please specify)			

SUMMARY OF EVENTS
<p>During 2012, there were two incidents where a patient's CJD risk status was not adequately flagged to staff performing surgery/a procedure on the patient.</p> <p>In the first, a patient had a surgical procedure and was subsequently discovered to be CJD 'at-risk' several hours post- surgery. However, when the patient returned to theatre for further surgery some days later, the theatre set was not discarded because the CJD 'at-risk' status had not been flagged adequately in the patient's notes. The error was detected a few days later, but it meant that the theatre set could have been used in the interim on other patients.</p> <p>In the second incident, the 'at-risk' status was known, but was not recorded in the patient's notes.</p>

TRANSFERABLE LEARNING
<p>For Medical and Nursing staff involved in the pre-operative assessment of patients for surgery and/or endoscopy, GPs and Dentists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the patient responds 'Yes' to the question 'Have you ever been notified that you are at increased risk of CJD or vCJD for public health purposes?' <u>you</u> must ensure that this information is included in the patient's notes in such a way that it will be seen by all who need to know. • If the patient informs a dentist that they have CJD, or have been notified that they are 'at risk' of CJD, then the dentist should include this in the patient's dental records and any referral for surgery. <p>For Managers of surgery and/or endoscopy services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You should discuss this Learning Letter with clinical and other relevant staff in the services for which you are responsible, and identify any changes you need to make or other Service Managers need to make, in light of these incidents and the Action Required. • You must ensure that staff in services for which you are responsible, use the up-to-date CJD & vCJD guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-from-the-acdp-tse-risk-management-subgroup-formerly-tse-working-group

ACTION REQUIRED

By HSC Trusts:

1. Please confirm:
 - a. That this letter has been disseminated to the staff groups named in the Transferable Learning Section, and other relevant staff – timescale – **immediate**;
 - b. That your Trust is following the latest suite of guidance on minimising the transmission of CJD and vCJD;
 - c. That your Trust has a protocol for risk assessing patients pre-operatively for CJD and notifying other staff of a patient's CJD 'at-risk' status;
 - d. The date(s) of the last audit(s) of compliance with CJD risk-assessments, or the date(s) of the next audit(s), in relevant specialties.


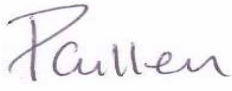
2. Please reply by **30 November 2013** to alerts.hscb@hscni.net

Action by RQIA

1. Please disseminate to relevant independent sector providers.

Action by Directorate of Integrated Care, HSCB

1. Please disseminate to GPs and relevant non-Trust dentists.

Date issued	02 September 2013	
Signed:		
Issued by	Dr Carolyn Harper Medical Director & Director of Public Health	Mrs Pat Cullen Acting Director of Nursing and AHPs

RE: Communication of Patients' Risk Status for CJD – Distribution List

	To – for Action	Copy		To – for Action	Copy
HSC Trusts			PHA		
CEXs	√		CEX		√
Medical Director		√	Medical Director/Director of Public Health		
Directors of Nursing		√	Director of Nursing/AHPs		
Directors of Social Services			PHA Duty Room		
Governance Leads		√	AD Health Protection		√
Directors of Acute Services		√	AD Service Development/Screening		√
Directors of Community/Elderly Services			AD Health Improvement		
Heads of Pharmacy			AD Nursing		√
NIAS			AD Allied Health Professionals		
CEX		√	Clinical Director Safety Forum		√
Medical Director		√	HSCB		
RQIA			CEX		√
CEX	√		Director of Integrated Care	√	
Medical Director		√	Director of Social Services		
Director of Nursing		√	Director of Commissioning		
Director for Social Care			Alerts Office		√
NIMDTA			Dir PMSI & Corporate Services		√
CEX / PG Dean		√	Primary Care (through Integrated Care)		
QUB			GPs		√
Dean of Medical School		√	Community Pharmacists		
Head of Nursing School		√	Dentists		√
Head of Social Work School			Open University		
Head of Pharmacy School			Head of Nursing Branch		√
Head of Dentistry School			DHSSPS		
UU			CMO office		√
Head of Nursing School		√	CNO office		√
Head of Social Work School			CPO office		
Clinical Education Centre		√	CSSO office		
NIPEC		√	CDO office		√
Safeguarding Board NI					
NI Social Care Council					

