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For Discussion

Walsall Health Scrutiny Panel  
28<sup>TH</sup> April 2009

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Director of Performance

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Assurance Manager

**Annual Health Check Report  
2008/09**

The panel is asked to note the following report

**Summary of the Key Points:**

1. For the period 2008/09 the Trust will be declaring to the Care Quality Commission a declaration of compliance with 40 out of the 44 core standards that require a declaration to be made.
2. The Trust will be declaring “Insufficient Assurance” with 3 of the standards.
3. The Trust will also be declaring “Not Met” against one of the standards.
4. The Trusts current declaration (prior to Inspection) places the Trust in the top tier of scoring, - classified as “Fully Met” (A Trust can declare a maximum of four non compliant standards and remain in the Fully Met category)

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to update the Walsall Health Scrutiny Panel on the proposed declaration for the 2008/09 Annual Health Check for Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust.

The report will detail the Trust's declaration with the Care Quality Commissions (CQC) Core standards for Better Health.

## **2.0 CARE QUALITY COMMISSION CORE STANDARDS FOR BETTER HEALTH**

There are two parts to our overall assessment of a Trust's performance: the quality of its healthcare services, and how effectively it manages its financial resources. In regards to quality of services, Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust is required to undertake an annual self assessment and declare its perceived compliance with the Care Quality Commission's Standards for Better Health Core Standards.

The Core standards are nationally agreed standards that every Trust is expected to be compliant with. In May 2009, following a detailed baseline assessment Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust will be declaring compliance with 40 of the 44 standards that require a declaration to be made. The scoring methodology allows for a Trust to declare up to four standards as non compliant whilst remaining in the top scoring category of "Fully Met".

Following a review of the Trust's process used to determine the annual declaration against these standards, a decision was made that for the 2008/09 declaration a new and more robust system would be introduced. The new system, involved the Trust allocating each core standard to an Executive Lead (An Executive Director) and a Trust Lead (Usually a Senior Manager in the Trust). In addition, the Trust lead was required to complete a submission form that required comments to be made on the current status of areas of "Cross Checking" used by the Healthcare Commission in 2007/08. Finally, the standard leads were interviewed by experienced members of the Trust in a "Mock Assessment" type interview, to determine what evidence the Trust could provide in meeting the requirements of the 2007/08 Key Lines of Enquires and to check the robustness of the proposed declaration.

## **3.0 WALSALL HOSPITALS NHS TRUST 2008/09 DECLARATION**

The Trust Board has agreed that for the 2008/09 Care Quality Commission Core Standards for Better Health declaration, Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust will submit the following declaration.

### **Compliant**

40 out of the 44 standards requiring a declaration will be declared as "Compliant "

### **Insufficient Assurance**

A declaration of "Insufficient Assurance" will be made against the following three core standards:

- C4a – Year upon Year reduction in MRSA
- C4b – Acquisition and Use of Medical Equipment
- C13b – Consent.

The reasons / agreed actions for these standards are described below:

- C4a – The Trust has been unable to demonstrate a reduction in MRSA Infections for 2008/09.
- C4b – The Trust is unable to demonstrate that a fully implemented system of training on medical equipment is in place, as no centralised record exists to demonstrate who has been trained to use equipment.
- C13b – The Trust is unable to demonstrate that people who are taking “delegated consent” have received appropriate formal training in how to do this.

### **Not Met**

A declaration of “Not Met” will be made for core standard C4c. This standard relates to the decontamination of Medical Equipment. The reason for this declaration is owing to the fact that in July 2008, the Trust was inspected by the Healthcare Commission in relation to the Trust compliance with the Hygiene Code of Conduct. The inspection highlighted some issues in relation to the decontamination of mattresses. Even though actions have been subsequently implemented by the Trust, with a mattress replacement and management scheme introduced, the Trust can only demonstrate compliance for part of the 2008/09 year and therefore has no option but to declare as “Not Met”

## **4.0 ACTION PLANNING / INSPECTION**

As part of the declaration process, Trusts are required to submit an action plan to the Care Quality Commission for all non-compliant core standards. The Trust will therefore develop action plans and implement changes to address identified shortfalls in all non compliant core standards. Although these shortfalls did not constitute a “Significant lapse” actions plans have been developed by the Trust to address these areas.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009 and as part of the Annual Health Check, the Care Quality Commission will begin Inspecting Trusts. Selection of Trusts for these visits is determined by two methods: a) random selection and b) risk based inspection following assessment of a Trust declaration compared the Cross checking indicators. In anticipation of a possible inspection, Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust is currently collating and saving evidence to demonstrate its compliance with the core standards.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

The Trust will declare compliance with all but four of the CQC Core standards and is confident that a score of “Fully Met” will be allocated to the Trust.

The Trust Assurance Department as part of the new Quality and Value Unit will work to ensure all evidence to demonstrate the Trust’s compliance against the standards is readily available and will also facilitate the addressing of any areas of non-compliance.

In summary Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust continues to operate at a high standard and is expected to maintain its high score in this years Annual Health check ratings.