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Dear Colleague

SCOTTISH PARTICIPATION IN THE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CLINICAL OUTCOME REVIEW PROGRAMME (CORP)

I am pleased to inform you that from 1 April 2015, Scotland will join the Medical and Surgical Clinical Outcome Review Programme. The programme is commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) on behalf of NHS England, the Welsh Government, DHSSPS Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

The Medical and Surgical Programme is one of 4 Clinical Outcome Review Programmes, previously known as Confidential Enquiries, which have been operating for some years across the United Kingdom. The 3 programmes where participation by Scottish centres has been occurring for some time are:

- The Mental Health Clinical Outcome Review Programme (service provider: National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by people with Mental Illness (NCISH), University of Manchester);
- The Maternal, Newborn and Infant Clinical Outcome Review Programme (service provider: MBRRACE-UK, University of Oxford); and
- The Child Health Clinical Outcome Review Programme.

The programmes are designed to help assess the quality of healthcare, and stimulate improvement in safety and effectiveness by enabling clinicians, managers and policy makers to learn from adverse events and other relevant data and improve care.

The current service provider delivering the Medical and Surgical Programme is the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NCEPOD), which has performed this role since 1988. Following open tender, HQIP re-awarded the contract to NCEPOD in February 2015. The current contract runs for the next 3 years. Originally, the programme's remit was restricted to surgical topics, but has expanded in scope over the years and now undertakes topics covering both medical and surgical specialities.

The Medical and Surgical Programme aims to assist in maintaining and improving standards of medical and surgical care by reviewing the management of patients, through the use of national, topic-based, anonymised case note review and assessment of Trust or NHS Board organisational data. This facilitates an assessment of the quality of care and service delivery for patients at both local and national level. The results are published and made available in the public domain with reports identifying key messages and recommended actions for improvement relating to the topic area covered.

In Scotland we will seek a named NCEPOD 'Local Reporter' in NHS Boards and Hospitals who will act as a link between the non-clinical staff at NCEPOD and individual Health Boards. In addition, NCEPOD recruits 'Ambassadors' – senior clinicians whose role it is to support Local Reporters and champion the work locally. Once completed, all reports and summaries are provided to Local Reporters and Ambassadors for onward dissemination to consultants and other health care professionals within their hospitals. NCEPOD will be in touch shortly with Health Boards in Scotland to develop these roles.

A call for topics for review is made annually from April to September, with clinical staff and other stakeholders, including the public, encouraged to nominate topics for review via the NCEPOD website. Two programme reports are published per year. The next topic to be commenced will be:

- Provision of Mental Health Care in Acute Hospitals (to be published in November 2016)

This will be followed by:

- Non Invasive Ventilation (publication date TBC)
- Cancer in Children (publication date TBC)

Scottish participation and data collection for the programme will commence later in 2015 with participation, where possible, in the mental health study, and later in the year the new studies.

We are delighted to be able to join this programme which will provide clinicians in Scotland with valuable information to support them in improving care of their patients. We hope you will agree this is an exciting and valuable opportunity for Scotland to join this important programme of work and lend your support through raising awareness and encouraging participation among your colleagues and members.

For further information please see the Medical and Surgical area of the HQIP website: <http://hqip.org.uk/national-confidential-enquiry-into-patient-outcome-and-death-2/> and also NCEPOD's site www.ncepod.org.uk

Yours sincerely

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