

Appendix 6

Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check

Health Select Committee – North West London NHS Hospitals Draft Comments

TRUST	NORTH WEST LONDON NHS HOSPITALS TRUST
Core Standard	Committee Comments
<p>C1 - Health care organisations protect patients through systems that –</p> <p>a) identify and learn from all patient safety incidents and other reportable incidents, and make improvements in practice based on local and national experience and information derived from the analysis of incidents.</p>	<p>In November 2008 the Health Select Committee considered the findings of the independent review into maternity services at Northwick Park Hospital. The review was commissioned following three maternal deaths and two serious untoward incidents in 2007/08. This had followed an earlier review into 10 maternal deaths at the hospital between 2002 and 2005.</p> <p>The Committee was encouraged that lessons had been learnt from the first enquiry and that none of the latest maternal deaths were due to deficiencies of care. Whilst the committee regretted these deaths, its view was that the trust had taken on board the findings of the first review and implemented them leading to a better maternity service at Northwick Park Hospital. They had also reacted quickly after the latest maternity deaths occurred to ensure there were no underlying problems with services and quality of care. The trust now employs more midwives and has put in place further steps to closely monitor the large number of women with high risk pregnancies that have their baby at the hospital.</p>
<p>C4 - Health care organisations keep patients, staff and visitors safe by having systems to ensure that -</p> <p>a) the risk of health care acquired infection to patients is reduced, with particular emphasis on high standards of hygiene and cleanliness, achieving year-on-year reductions in MRSA;</p>	<p>The Health Select Committee has been interested in the level of infections reported by the hospital trust in 2008/09. Members are encouraged that as of December 2008 there have been 22 MRSA infections recorded by the hospital, compared to a target of 24. This performance is also better than that recorded in 2006/07 and 07/08. C Difficile cases are significantly below target at the end of December, (100 cases, against a local target of 223 for post 48 hour cases). The Committee has been pleased with the attention given to tackling infection rates and hopes that the good work can continue. Particular attention to hand hygiene is considered crucial. Whilst Central Middlesex is reporting over 90% compliance for nurses, and nearly 90% compliance for doctors, figures for Northwick Park and St Mary's remain around the 80% mark (as of December 2008). The committee would like to see this issue addressed particularly at the Northwick Park site. The Health Select Committee has been told of specific measures the trust</p>

	<p>has taken to reduce infection rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular hand washing audits • Screening of elective and emergency patients to decolonise high risk or MRAS positive patients • Improvements to blood culture techniques to reduce the incidents of hospital acquired, blood born infection.
<p>C6 - Health care organisations cooperate with each other and social care organisations to ensure that patients' individual needs are properly managed and met.</p>	<p>The Health Select Committee has significant concerns about the North West London NNS Hospitals Trust finances (see C7d for more information). One of the steps that local health organisations have taken to try and resolve the trusts ongoing financial problems is that NHS Brent has given the hospital trust a one off grant of £6m for the 2008/09 financial year. Part of this grant is performance related and is dependent on certain targets being met (specifically the 98% target for A&E admissions and fewer than 32 cases of MRSA for the year). The hospital trust is also to work with NHS Brent and Harrow PCT on a review of acute services to ensure services meet the needs of local people and are financially sustainable going forward.</p> <p>Whilst the circumstances for these agreements are unfortunate, it does demonstrate a willingness from the trust to work with others to ensure services remain in place for people in Brent. (This also applies to C22a).</p>
<p>C7 - Health care organisations – d) ensure financial management achieves economy, effectiveness, efficiency, probity and accountability in the use of resources;</p>	<p>The Health Select Committee has serious concerns about the North West London Hospitals Trust finances. It isn't clear to the committee whether the trust will break even in its day to say spending in 2008/09. The trust has an historic deficit of £25m and in 2009/10 it will be looking to make £32m of savings, possibly rising to £36m. At the end of February 2009 the trust had identified £16m of savings for 2009/10. The Committee is worried about the impact this will have on services.</p> <p>Information is starting to come to light on how these savings will be made. As many as 400 jobs could be lost at the trust, and members have little detail on the impact that this could have on services. At its meeting in November 2008, Health Select Committee questioned the trust chief executive and chair on their savings plans, but few details were revealed, other than the trust could no longer rely on non-recurring savings. With 400 job cuts proposed, the committee is very concerned about the possible impact on services.</p>

	<p>The Committee is very disappointed that historically the trust hasn't dealt with the financial challenges it faces and is now forced into a situation where it may have to make people redundant. This could have implications for services and members are very worried about this development. The Committee will continue to monitor developments and hope that the impact on patients will be negligible.</p>
<p>C16 - Health care organisations make information available to patients and the public on their services, provide patients with suitable and accessible information on the care and treatment they receive and, where appropriate, inform patients on what to expect during treatment, care and after-care.</p>	
<p>C17 - The views of patients, their carer's and others are sought and taken into account in designing, planning, delivering and improving health care services.</p>	
<p>C22 - Health care organisations promote, protect and demonstrably improve the health of the community served, and narrow health inequalities by –</p> <p>a) co-operating with each other and with local authorities and other organisations;</p> <p>c) making an appropriate and effective contribution to local partnership arrangements including Local Strategic Partnerships and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.</p>	<p>C22a – The Health Select Committee has completed a review into public transport access to health sites in Brent and has been impressed with the way that North West London NHS Hospitals Trust has worked with partners such as Brent Council and TfL to try and improve access to its sites. Groups such as the Northwick Park Public Transport Liaison Committee bring together a variety of partners to work on solutions to transport problems at the hospital (and neighbouring university). Better public transport access helps to reduce health inequalities by improving access to healthcare for all, including people who don't own a car. The task group that carried out the access review were assisted throughout by the trust. The commitment to improve public transport access to healthcare, and the way the trust is working with partners on this is to be commended.</p> <p>C22c – The North West London NHS Hospitals Trust continues to contribute to the Health Select Committee and participate in meetings and task group work (see C22a). They have hosted a meeting of the committee this year (November 2008) and the work of the trust forms a crucial part of the committee's work programme, which is likely to continue in 2009/10.</p>

