

1. Runaí Aire

Note for the Minister's Information

Ninth Report from the Oversight Group for the Implementation of Recommendations in the HIQA Investigation Report on Portlaoise Hospital

1. This is the ninth report from the Oversight Group to the Minister on the progress being achieved in the implementation of the HIQA recommendations. The report covers progress made for the period up to 31st of May, 2016 which was discussed at the Oversight Group meeting on 30th of June, 2016. The Implementation Plan shows a large number of actions completed and a large proportion on track for implementation by the timeline set. There are minor challenges in relation to some actions. These challenges are largely due to timing issues where the action is being progressed but it has missed the project completion date.
2. Publication of the monthly Maternity Patient Safety Statements (MPSS) by the HSE commenced earlier this year, and Statements for all 19 maternity units are now available on the HSE's website for each month for the period December 2015-April 2016. The need for all metrics to be included in the Statements has been underlined to the HSE, as for a short period some hospitals were publishing abbreviated versions of the MPSS.
3. Broadly speaking, the Department is satisfied with the implementation of the recommendations by the HSE. However, the Department continues to have reservations regarding the follow up of families by the Dublin-Midlands Hospital Group. An additional meeting between the Department, the Hospital Group CEO, the obstetricians involved in the review process and Patient Focus was held in April to examine the feasibility of facilitating the desire of those families who wish to receive a written report into their individual cases, where appropriate. In addition, the meeting considered an appropriate mechanism for assurance that patients have been provided with any additional requirements they may have. A further meeting of a smaller group is scheduled to take place on 13th of July next to re-examine these issues.
4. It has also been decided to agree an additional set of actions in order to ensure full implementation of an element of Recommendation 6¹.
5. As it was originally envisaged that the Group would complete its work by June 2016, consideration must now be given to drawing the process to a close.
6. A copy of the Oversight Group's Implementation Plan to 31st of May, 2016 will be placed on the Department's website in the coming days.
7. The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for 14 July 2016.

***Dr Tony Holohan,
Chief Medical Officer and Chairperson of the Oversight Group
4 July, 2016***

¹ A clearly defined, agreed, resourced and published model of clinical service delivery for each Hospital within the group. This must be supported by clearly defined, agreed and documented patient care pathways to ensure that patients are managed in or transferred to the most appropriate Hospital.