

Implementation of the Recommendations of the Final Report of the Scoping Inquiry into the CervicalCheck Screening Programme

Monthly Update to Minister

January 2019

Overview

The Implementation Plan for the Report of the Scoping Inquiry into CervicalCheck was published on 12 December last. Quarterly reports on implementation will be provided, aligning with the quarterly targets in the Implementation Plan.

In addition, monthly updates will set out progress highlights for the past month. The 50 recommendations of the Final Report of the Scoping Inquiry are grouped within a number of themes and this update reflects progress highlights for January under each of these themes:

- Method of Approach
- Listening to the Voices of the Women and Families Affected
- CervicalCheck – Organisation and Governance
- CervicalCheck – Laboratory Services
- Procurement of Laboratory Services
- Auditing Cervical Screening
- Open Disclosure and the HSE
- Open Disclosure and the Medical Council
- Open Disclosure and CervicalCheck
- Cancer Registration
- Other Screening Programmes
- Resolution

Method of Approach

The Department of Health has commenced usage of eSubmissions which is a positive step in streamlining work processes.

Listening to the Voices of the Women and Families Affected

The Department of Health intends to hold a Department-wide working session to examine potential internal changes or improvements in order to ensure a more consistent, expert and committed approach to women's health issues. This working session is due to take place in the second week of February.

CervicalCheck – Organisation and Governance

HSE Board

On 22 January, the Minister for Health announced eight new appointees to the Board of the HSE. The Board will be appointed on an administrative basis until the legislation has passed.

The appointees reflect the range of competencies sought for prospective HSE Board members through the State Board's process. As recommended by Dr Scally, two patient advocates, Mr Mark Molloy and Dr Sarah McLoughlin, have been appointed.

This will ensure the patient's voice is embedded in the reform of our health service and patient concerns are at the heart of key decisions taken.

HSE Governance Bill

The Bill has now passed through the second stage in the Dáil and is continuing progress through the Houses. A date is yet to be set for the committee stage.

National Screening Committee

The Deputy Chief Medical Officer attended the UK National Screening Committee (Adult Reference Group) meeting in London on 30 January 2018. This attendance was in an observer capacity to examine and consider the working of the Adult Reference Group and the broader UK National Screening Committee.

During this visit, the DCMO met with the Chair of the UK National Screening Committee and the Secretariat of Public Health England. The objective of these engagements was to inform the drafting of a proposed service specification and membership of an Irish National Screening Committee.

Public Health Expertise

The Crowe Horwath Review of Public Health Medicine was published in December. There is active engagement with the HSE in relation to this. An Implementation Oversight Group led by the Department will be established in early February.

A Director of Public Health has been appointed to the National Screening Service.

Risk Management

An organisational review of risk management structures has been commissioned by the HSE.

CervicalCheck – Laboratory Services

The National Screening Service has established a new Quality, Safety & Risk Committee.

Procurement of Laboratory Services

The HSE has reviewed and updated its financial records management policy as relevant to procurement.

Auditing Cervical Screening

An expert group has been established within the National Screening Service to review clinical audit processes across all screening programmes

Open Disclosure

Patient Safety Bill

In December 2018, the Department of Health, following a competitive tender process, commissioned University College Cork to undertake research “*to examine the international literature and experience around serious reportable events and audit to inform guidance to be issued by the Minister for the Patient Safety Bill*”.

The Patient Safety Bill is currently with the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel to the Government for drafting.

Independent Patient Safety Council

A proposal to establish the Independent Patient Safety Council has been approved by the Minister for Health and the proposed membership and terms of reference are being progressed. When established, the immediate priority of the Council will be to undertake a review of open disclosure policies, informed by international best practice and research with a view to standardising and optimising the process of open disclosure to enhance the patient experience and maximise the opportunities for system-wide learning. The Independent Patient Safety Council will include strong patient and public representation and international patient safety expertise.

An interim revision of the HSE Open Disclosure Policy has commenced and will be communicated & implemented throughout the system pending a more detailed review during 2019.

Cancer Registration

The HSE and the NCRI have established a working group to collaborate on their common recommendations in the Scally report.

NCRI Board

A campaign is being run by the Public Appointments Service (PAS) to fill the remaining two vacancies on the NCRI Board with a February closing date.

Based on Dr Scally's recommendation, the following are listed as desired competencies in the information booklet for the campaign:

- persons with experience in Quality Assurance and Organisational Management and/or data management, including data sharing and data protection, and/or accountancy, audit, corporate finance.
- persons with experience in Patient Safety, and/or in-patient experience in the health sector and wider public health services.