Bundle Quality, Safety & Experience Assurance Committee 9 June 2020

5.2 Management and Distribution of Safety Alerts and Notices Policy

Presenter: Mandy Rayani

Item 5.2 Alerts Procedure for approval June 2020

Appendix 1 Management & Distribution of Safety Alerts & Notices Procedure v1.2

Appendix 2 Summary EqIA Alerts Policy v2.0 May2020 (post consultation)

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda University Health Board

PWYLLGOR ANSAWDD, DIOGELWCH A SICRHAU PROFIOD
QUALITY, SAFETY AND EXPERIENCE ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	09 June 2020
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:	Management and Distribution of Safety Alerts and Notices Procedure
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:	Mandy Rayani, Executive Director of Nursing, Quality and Patient Experience
SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:	Cathie Steele, Head of Quality and Governance

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)
Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)

Ar Gyfer Penderfyniad/For Decision

ADRODDIAD SCAA
SBAR REPORT

Sefyllfa / Situation

The Quality Safety and Experience Assurance Committee (QSEAC) is asked to approve the Management and Distribution of Safety Alerts and Notices Procedure.

This report provides the required assurance that the Written Control Documentation (WCD) Policy (policy number 190) has been adhered to in the development of the above mentioned written control document and that therefore the document is in line with legislation/regulations, available evidence base and can be implemented within the Health Board.

Cefndir / Background

In summary, the WCD aims to ensure safety alerts are disseminated effectively across the organisation, appropriate action taken to address the recommendations made within the alert and that assurance is received that actions have been taken.

This WCD applies to all managers and employees within the Health Board along with any locum staff and contractors. The procedure does not replace the duty and professional accountability of staff to report any adverse incident involving a medical device, hazardous product or unsafe procedure, in line with Health Board policies and other written control documents.

Asesiad / Assessment

For assurance to QSEAC, the WCD (Appendix 1) when approved and implemented will define the procedure to ensure safety alerts are disseminated effectively across the organisation, appropriate action taken to address the recommendations made within the alert and that assurance is received that actions have been taken.

A screening Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken (Appendix 2). The procedure has been assessed as having a low relevance to the General Equality Duties.

The Policy has been shared with:

- Key stakeholders including Senior Datix Officer, Nominated Health Board Safety Alerts Leads including Head of Clinical Engineering, Head of Medicines Management, and Director of Estates, Facilities and Capital Management. All comments received were accepted.
- All University Health Board (UHB) staff via the global email and policy consultation page. No comments were received following global consultation.

The Management and Distribution of Safety Alerts and Notices Procedure has also been shared with the current Chair of the Clinical Written Control Documentation Group, who is supportive of the procedure being presented to QSEAC for approval in recognition that the Clinical Written Control Documentation Group is not meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The final WCD will be sent to all triumvirate teams and senior managers for dissemination. A 7 minute briefing will be developed to support the publication of the policy.

The principles of the procedure are not new and reiterate the process already in place.

Compliance will be monitored by the senior members of the Quality Assurance and Safety Team. Issues identified will be addressed as they arise. Where there is ongoing non-compliance, escalation will be to the Assistant Director of Nursing, Quality, Assurance, Safeguarding and Professional Regulation

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

QSEAC are asked to, prior to approval:

- receive assurance that the Written Control Documentation Policy (policy number 190) has been adhered to in the development of the Management and Distribution of Safety Alerts and Notices Procedure and that therefore the document is in line with legislation/regulations, available evidence base and can be implemented within the Health Board.

- ratify the procedure for publication and implementation.

Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau) **Objectives: (must be completed)**	
Committee ToR Reference: Cyfeirnod Cylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor:	5.21 Approve policies and plans within the scope of the Committee, having taken an assurance that the quality and safety of patient care has been considered within these policies and plans.
Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	Not Applicable
Safon(au) Gofal ac Iechyd: Health and Care Standard(s):	Governance, Leadership and Accountability

Nodau Gwella Ansawdd: Quality Improvement Goal(s):	Focus On What Matters To Patients, Service users, Their Families and Carers, and Our Staff
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	4. Improve the productivity and quality of our services using the principles of prudent health care and the opportunities to innovate and work with partners.
Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives Annual Report 2018-2019	8. Transform our communities through collaboration with people, communities and partners

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol: Further Information:	
Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	Legislation and national policy Similar WCD within other NHS organisations
Rhestr Termau: Glossary of Terms:	Contained within each written control document
Partïon / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Pwyllgor Ansawdd, Diogelwch a Sicrhau Profiod: Parties / Committees consulted prior to Quality, Safety and Experience Assurance Committee:	As detailed in the assessment

Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)	
Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	N/A
Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:	Staff accessing written control documentation which is out of date, no longer relevant or contradicts current guidance may have a negative effect on the quality, safety and experience of care. It may also lead to unwarranted variation in care delivery
Gweithlu: Workforce:	N/A
Risg: Risk:	The presence of written control documentation on the intranet, outside of the Policies, Procedures and other Written Control Documentation intranet webpage, may result in staff accessing documents which are out of date, no longer relevant, or contradicting current guidance

Cyfreithiol: **Legal:**	It is essential that the UHB has up to date policies and procedures in place.
Enw Da: **Reputational:**	Not applicable
Gyfrinachedd: **Privacy:**	Not applicable
Cydraddoldeb: **Equality:**	A summary equality impact assessment has been undertaken for the policy.

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Hywel Dda University Health Board

Management and Distribution of Safety Alerts and Notices Procedure

THIS IS A DRAFT DOCUMENT FOR APPROVAL PURPOSES ONLY
The Policy is for approval by QSEAC on 9th June 2020
Approved Hywel Dda University Health Board policies can be found on the Policies and Procedures Approved section of the intranet

Policy Number:	429	Classification		Corporate
Supersedes	Management and Distribution of Safety Alerts and Notices Policy (version 1)			
LOCSSIP reference:		NATSSIPS Standards	List standard (NATSSIPS Standards)	

Version No	Date of EqIA:	Approved by:	Date of Approval:	Date made Active:	Review Date:
	01/06/2015	Chair CPRG	01/06/2015		
1.0	01/06/2015	Chair CPRG	02/12/2015		

Brief Summary of Document:	This policy sets out the arrangements for the distribution of Safety Alerts, Notices and Bulletins within Hywel Dda University Health Board.
Scope:	This procedure applies to all managers and employees within the Health Board along with any locum staff and contractors. The procedure does not replace the duty and professional accountability of staff to report any adverse incident involving a medical device, hazardous product or unsafe procedure, in line with Health Board policies and other written control documents.
To be read in conjunction with:	156 - Risk Management Strategy 199 - Risk Management Procedure 010 - Health & Safety Policy 011 - The Reporting of Incidents and Hazards Policy

Patient information:	Include links to Patient Information Library

Owning Committee/ Group	Operational Quality, Safety and Experience Sub Committee

Executive Director:	Mandy Rayani	Job Title	Director of Nursing, Quality and Patient Experience

Reviews and updates		
Version no:	Summary of Amendments:	Date Approved:
1	Updates made	02/12/2015

Glossary of terms

Term	Definition

Keywords	Alert, notice, safety notice, patient safety solution

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1. Introduction

Hywel Dda University Health Board (the Health Board) is committed to the protection of its service users and staff through systems that ensure safety notices and alerts are acted on within the required timescales.

The aim of this procedure is to provide an effective and auditable management system for the distribution, monitoring and record keeping of all alerts, safety notices and other guidance throughout the Health Board.

It should be noted that the term “safety alerts” is used throughout this document to refer to alerts, safety notices and other guidance.

2. Scope

This procedure applies to all managers and employees within the Health Board along with any locum staff and contractors. The procedure does not replace the duty and professional accountability of staff to report any adverse incident involving a medical device, hazardous product or unsafe procedure, in line with Health Board policies and other written control documents.

3. Aim

The aim of this procedure is to ensure safety alerts are disseminated effectively across the organisation, appropriate action taken to address the recommendations made within the alert and that assurance is received that actions have been taken.

4. Objectives

The aim will be achieved by:

- Ensuring there is a consistent approach to the dissemination of safety alerts;
- Ensuring all safety alerts are disseminated promptly to the relevant members of staff;
- Ensuring all appropriate staff are aware of the safety alert;
- Identifying appropriate corrective action and implementing in reaction to the safety alert;
- Monitoring the implementation and completion of the necessary actions within the required timescales;
- Ensuring that there is a robust audit trail providing evidence of compliance and action taken;
- Ensuring compliance against safety alerts is presented to the Operational Quality, Safety and Experience Sub-Committee which will be accountable for advising the Quality, Safety and Experience Assurance Committee of any clinical, financial or other risk to the organisation
- Maintaining the accountability of senior officers through the use of robust systems for the dissemination of safety alerts.

5. Types of Safety Alerts Included in this Procedure

A “safety alert” is a generic terms which covers a number of different types of alerts and notices. The main types of safety alerts received by the Health Board is listed below:

5.1 Patient Safety Solutions issued by Welsh Government

Through analysis of reports of patient safety incidents submitted to the National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS), and safety information from other sources, advice has been issued to the NHS as and when issues arise. This advice is to help ensure the safety of patients and is issued directly to NHS organisations in Wales. Solutions cover a wide range of topics, from vaccines to patient identification.

As a consequence of the abolition of the NPSA, the Welsh Government has taken over this role and will identify any significant risks and concerns and will develop Patient Safety Solutions at a national level for issue to the NHS in Wales.

5.1.1 Safety alerts: These require prompt action within a specified implementation date in order to address high risks/significant safety problems.

5.1.2 Safety notices: These are issued to ensure that organisations and all relevant healthcare staff are made aware of potential patient safety issues at the earliest opportunity. A Notice allows organisations to assess the potential for similar patient safety risks in their own areas, and take immediate action. This stage „warns" organisations of emerging risk. It can be issued in a timely manner, once a new risk has been identified to allow rapid dissemination of information for action.

Notices may be re-issued as an Alert if increased risk or further action is identified / required.

5.2 Safety Alerts issued by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

The MHRA is responsible for the regulation of medicines and medical devices and equipment used in healthcare and the investigation of harmful incidents. The MHRA also regulates blood and blood products, working with UK blood services, healthcare providers, and other relevant organisations to improve blood quality and safety.

The MHRA presently use the following forms for the distribution of safety information, these are:

5.2.1 Medical Device Alerts usually requires timely action in respect to the safe use and management of medical equipment and can include user information, engineering information of training information.

5.2.2 Medical Device Bulletins offers guidance on improved management standards in the field of medical devices. Although promulgated as guidance in the majority of not all of cases bulletins will contain information which supports a safe system of work as would be sought after by HSE in the event of enquiries following serious incident.

5.2.3 Drug Alerts require timely action in respect to medicines products and correspond to medical device alerts.

5.2.4 Safety Warnings for Medicines safety information which is usually of lesser significance to that contained in Drug Alerts

The MHRA have developed the following protocols in support of their alerts dissemination to NHS staff:

- **Immediate Action:** Used in cases where there is a risk of death or serious injury and where the health Board is expected to take immediate action on the advice.
- **Action:** Used where the Health Board is expected to take action on the advice, where it is necessary to repeat warnings on long standing problems, or support or follow-up manufacturers' field modifications.
- **Update:** Used to update the Health Board about previously reported incidents or series of incidents, possibly on a topical or device group basis and where further follow-up safety information is judged to be beneficial
- **Information request:** Used to alert the Health Board about a specific issue that may become a problem and where the MHRA are requesting feedback. These alerts will be sent out with additional questions to be completed.

5.3 Safety Alerts issued by the Department of Health (DH) Estates and Facilities

These are aimed at providing a safe environment and reducing risks to patients, staff and visitors in the NHS, by managing the risk relating to non-medical equipment, engineering plant installed services and building fabric in the NHS. There are four categories:

- **Immediate Action:** Used in cases where there is a risk of death or serious injury and where the recipient is expected to take immediate action on the advice.
- **Action:** Used where the recipient is expected to take action on the advice, where it is necessary to repeat warnings on long standing problems, or to support or follow-up manufacturers' field modifications.
- **Update:** Used to update the recipient about previously reported incidents or series of incidents, possibly on a topical or device group basis, and where further follow-up safety information is judged to be beneficial.
- **Information request/notice:** Used to alert users about a specific issue that may become a problem and where NHS Estates are requesting feedback. These alerts will be sent out with additional questions to be completed.

5.4 Safety Alerts issued by the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership Facilities Services (previously Welsh Health Estates)

NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership Facilities Services (NWSSP) is committed to promoting and facilitating the delivery of high standards in patient care in Wales through the built environment.

5.5 Others types of safety alerts include the following;

- Pharmaceutical Alerts
- Product recalls
- Field Safety Notices

5.5.1 Pharmaceutical Alerts allow practitioners to keep up to date with changes affecting their practice, including drug news, safety updates, drug alerts, legislative changes and new guidance or standards.

5.5.2 Field Safety Notices are the principal means by which manufacturers of medical devices communicate safety information to consumers of their products. These notices provide an early warning to consumers that a product may not be fit for

purpose and hence sound distribution of these notices by the health board is imperative.

The list is not exhaustive and from time to time other safety alerts may be received which require an equivalent response by the Health Board.

6. Safety Alerts Principles: external information

This refers to safety information coming into the organisation, for example from Welsh Government.

6.1 Safety Alerts Process

The Health Board has a duty to disseminate safety alerts throughout the organisation and to ensure that appropriate action is taken in order to minimise risk to staff and patients. This is shown in the flowchart of process in Appendix 1.

6.2 Receipt of Alerts

All safety alerts will be received via the Assurance, Safety and Improvement Team, using by e-mail HDD.Alerts@wales.nhs.uk and will be recorded on a central database (Datix).

As an additional safeguard the Assurance, Safety and Improvement team will periodically check the Public Health Alerts/Contacts web site for all safety alerts issued within NHS Wales to ensure that none have been missed.

Safety alerts are occasionally received independently by individual members of staff e.g. the Medical Director. Any member of staff receiving a safety alert **must** inform the Assurance, Safety and Improvement Team, through the email address HDD.Alerts@wales.nhs.uk address, to ensure that the team are aware of the safety alert and that appropriate action can be taken.

6.2 Initial Distribution

The Assurance, Safety and Improvement Team will monitor the alerts email box for newly issued alerts. The Assurance, Safety and Improvement Team will email the safety notice to the agreed Nominated Health Board Safety Alerts Lead.

The safety alert will also be sent to the Health Board Communication Team for inclusion in the internal communication, *Hywel Dda Heddiw/Today* and on the intranet page under *Staff/Clinical Alerts* (unless advised otherwise by the Nominated Health Board Safety Alerts Lead).

6.3 Nominated Health Board Safety Alerts Leads

The nominated Health Board safety alerts leads (safety alert leads) will support the process by providing guidance and instruction. The safety alerts leads are detailed below:

Issuing Authority	Safety Alert	Nominated Health Board Safety Alerts Leads
Welsh Government	Patient Safety Alert	Cathie Steele, Head of Quality and Governance
	Patient Safety Notice	Cathie Steele, Head of Quality and Governance
MHRA	Medical Device Alerts	Chris Hopkins, Head of Clinical Engineering

	Medical Device Bulletins	Chris Hopkins, Head of Clinical Engineering
	Drug Alerts	Jenny Pugh-Jones, Head of Medicines Management
	Safety Warnings for Medicines	Jenny Pugh-Jones, Head of Medicines Management
Department of Health	Estates and Facilities	Robert Elliot, Director of Estates, Facilities and Capital Management
NWSSP Facilities Services	Estates and Facilities	Robert Elliot, Director of Estates, Facilities and Capital Management
Royal Pharmaceutical Society or drug companies	Pharmaceutical Alerts	Jenny Pugh-Jones, Head of Medicines Management
Medical Device companies	Product recalls / Manufacturer Field Safety Notices	Chris Hopkins, Head of Clinical Engineering,

7. Roles and Responsibilities

7.1 Assurance Safety and Improvement Team

The Assurance, Safety and Improvement Team will, upon receipt of a safety alert:

1. Log the Safety Alert on the central risk management system (Datix)
2. Email all the relevant Nominated Health Board Safety Alerts Lead(s)
3. The email will advise Nominated Health Board Safety Alerts Lead of the deadline date for return, and will carry a reminder flag on the deadline date. The email will also have attached a link to the safety alert record on the central risk management system (Datix) where the required action will be recorded.
4. Email the Health Board Communication Team for the safety alert to be included in the internal communication, *Hywel Dda Heddiw/Today* and on the intranet page under *Staff/Clinical Alerts* (unless advised otherwise by the Nominated Health Board Safety Alerts Lead).
5. Monitor the central risk management system (Datix) for updates provided by the Nominated Health Board Safety Alerts Lead. Where details of actions undertaken have not been captured on the central risk management system (Datix) a reminder will be sent by the Assurance, Safety and Improvement Team to the Nominated Health Board Safety Alerts Lead. Escalation for continued non-action will be to the relevant Director.

Thereafter, the Assurance, Safety and Improvement Team will ensure the following actions will be undertaken:

6. Attach any email or other evidence to the appropriate safety alerts record within the central risk management system (Datix).
7. Compile a final compliance report which will be posted on the relevant intranet page.
8. Prepare a compliance report for presentation to the Operational Quality Safety and Experience Sub Committee.

7.2 Nominated Health Board Safety Alerts Lead

The Nominated Health Board Safety Alerts Lead(s) will receive all relevant safety alerts (see section 6.3) and will have a responsibility to:

1. Provide appropriate guidance or instruction, such as reports or position statements in relation to the content of each individual safety alert received within seven working days.
2. Assess if action is required in accordance with the notice.
3. Distribute, where appropriate, relevant safety alerts to the relevant General Manager(s) for action within their area of responsibility, attaching a *notification of compliance with safety alert* form (appendix 2).
4. Ensure that the required actions are completed by the due date and that a record of actions is recorded on the central risk management system (Datix), along with any evidence of compliance.
5. If the Health Board is unable to comply with the safety alert by the required date, ensure that a non-compliance form (appendix 3) is completed and returned to the Assurance, Safety and Improvement Team. The non-compliance form must indicate:
    a. The reason(s) why the Health Board is unable to comply with the alert
    b. The actions being taken to achieve compliance
    c. The date that non-compliance was entered onto the Health Board risk register
    d. The estimated date that the Health Board will be compliant with the alert.

Depending on the nature and content of the safety alert, a co-ordinated approach may be required to provide advice and appropriate documentation, such as risk assessments, throughout the Health Board. In this situation, the safety alerts lead will inform the responsible General Managers and will arrange a meeting of the parties, in order to provide a co-ordinated and integrated response to the safety alert.

7.3 General Managers

General Managers (directorate and site) will receive, from the safety alerts lead, a copy of relevant safety alerts. The General Manager will play a key role in ensuring appropriate dissemination of the safety alert and the action to be taken.

The General Manager may identify, from within their area of responsibility, a nominated person to action the safety alert; however, the General Manager will retain the responsibility for action within their area of responsibility. Where the General Manager is unable, or believes it would be inappropriate, to implement certain actions, this should be recorded in the safety alerts return report form (see appendix 2). These returns will be captured on the central database (Datix) for reporting to the Operational Quality, Safety and Experience Sub Committee.

7.4 Heads of Department and Ward Managers

Heads of Department and Ward Managers will:

- Read carefully each safety alert they receive
- Respond to safety alert emails without delay, particularly when responses are required within a specific timescale.
- Note that response times notified will vary according to the urgency of the action required and read receipts will be requested when emails are sent
- Ensure that safety alerts relating to their area are easily accessible to all staff and that staff are made aware of the safety alert.

7.5 All Staff

All staff have a duty to read the safety alerts they receive and implement measures introduced in response to safety alert.

Any member of staff independently receiving any type of 'safety alert, such as a manufacturer's safety sheet issued directly to the member of staff, should forward the safety alert to the Assurance, Safety and Improvement Team, , through the email address HDD.Alerts@wales.nhs.uk address, and seek appropriate advice before the formal distribution process is initiated.

8. Safety Alerts Principles: internal information

This refers to information which has become known within the organisation as a result of local incidents and near misses.

8.1 Reporting of incidents and near misses

All staff must following the Health Board's Incident Reporting Procedure to report incidents or near misses involving:

- Medical equipment and supplies. This includes medical devices, laboratory equipment and medical supplies and / or:
- Estates equipment, including engineering plant, installed services, piped medical gas and gas scavenging system, buildings, building fabrics and vehicles.

The member of staff reporting an incident relating to a medical device much ensure that the equipment is secured. The equipment should not be returned to the manufacturer without consent to do so from the Head of Clinical Engineering.

The Health Board has a duty to review incidents or near misses as described above.

8.2 Sharing of Learning (external)

Where appropriate, such incidents or near misses will be reported to the relevant agency e.g. Welsh Government, MHRA etc. The relevant technical and/or specialist managers will be responsible for making the appropriate report, and will make a record of the report on the relevant Datix record.

8.3 Sharing of Learning (internal)

Local Safety Notices (LSNs) are created and distributed within the Health Board for the purpose of disseminating important safety information to users without delay. These may be followed up by formal issue of a safety alert to an external government authority or agency such as the MHRA. The principal distribution mechanism for LSNs is the Health Board's intranet site although this is usually supported by the use of targeted email distribution of the notice to staff known to have an interest. LSNs should be given the same priority as externally issued notices as they might contain the earliest safety information to be available on a particular issue.

9. Storage and Retention of Safety Alerts

All safety alerts and supporting technical guidance and instruction will be available on the intranet.

A list of all Patient Safety Solutions can be found at http://www.patientsafety.wales.nhs.uk/safety-solutions

All MHRA safety alerts can be found at https://www.gov.uk/drug-device-alerts

All Royal Pharmaceutical Society alerts can be found
https://www.rpharms.com/publications/pharmacy-alerts/

The Assurance, Safety and Improvement Team will store the original safety alert and all responses from the Nominated Health Board Safety Alerts Leads

Those staff who are responsible for a specific area, such as a ward, clinic or nonclinical area, must ensure that safety action notices relating to their area are easily accessible to all staff, and that all staff are made aware of relevant notices. Where bank staff, agency staff or staff from other areas are working in a particular location, safety alerts directly relating to patient safety, need and/or relevant equipment, must be highlighted. 5.5 Where appropriate it is recommended that the nominated contacts include the departmental 'medical device controllers' (see Appendix seven - definition), where these are currently in place. Where this is not possible a nominated lead should be appointed.

10. References

Welsh Government (2004) Reporting Adverse Incidents – Guidance on New Arrangements for NHS Wales Organisations

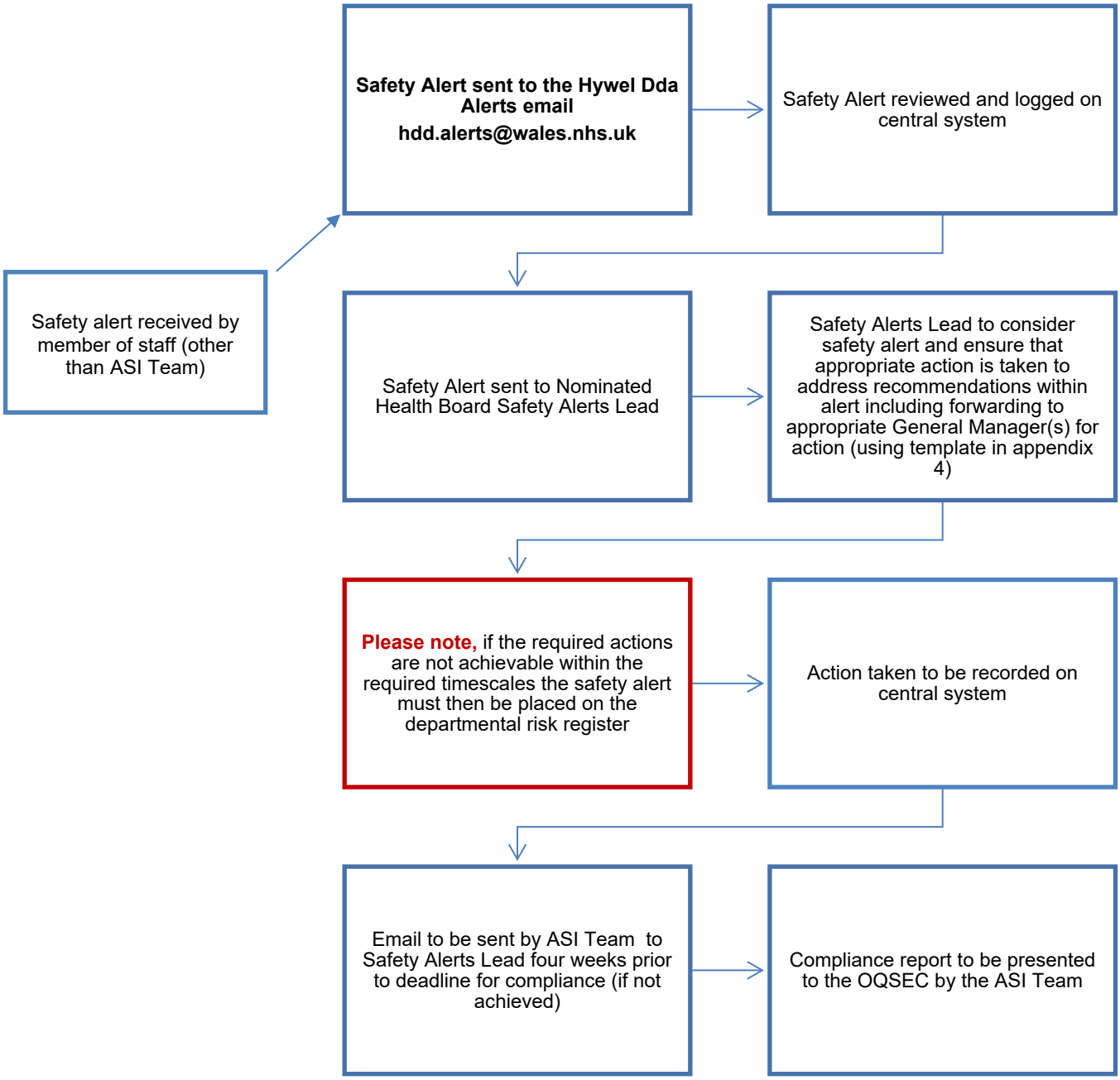
Welsh Government (2011) Guidance on the Reporting and Handling of Serious Incidents and other Patient Related Concerns / No Surprises

Welsh Government (2014) Guidance on NHS Wales Patient Safety Solutions

11. Appendices

Appendix 1: Safety Alerts Process (flowchart)
Appendix 2: Notification of Compliance with Safety Alert

Appendix 1: Safety Alerts Process



Appendix 2: Notification of Compliance with Safety Alert

Alert Reference		**Alert Type**	
Title			
Date alert issued		**Date compliance form to be returned by**	
Datix reference		**Datix link**	

Response	I acknowledge receipt of the safety alert and confirm that action is underway to address the issues highlighted in the safety alert (please sign in box to right)	
	I acknowledge receipt of the safety alert and confirm that all actions detailed in the safety alert have been completed (please embed or attach any evidence of completion)	
	I acknowledge receipt of the safety alert and confirm that no action is required within my area of responsibility (please state reason)	

Signed		**Date**	
Print Name			
Designation			
Directorate/department			

Please return this form to *insert name of nominated safety alert lead and email address*

SUMMARY EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT –

Organisation:	Hywel Dda University Health Board

Proposal Sponsored by:	**Name:**	David James - Quality Improvement Manager **Reviewed March 2020** **Cathie Steele – Head of Quality and Governance**
	Title:	Head of Quality and Governance
	Department:	Nursing and Quality Directorate

Policy Title:	**Procedure for the management and distribution of safety alerts** Review May 2015 **Reviewed March 2020**

Brief Aims and Objectives of Policy:	The aim of this procedure is to ensure safety alerts are disseminated effectively across the organisation, appropriate action taken to address the recommendations made within the alert and that assurance is received that actions have been taken. This will be achieved by • Ensuring there is a consistent approach to the dissemination of Safety Alerts. • Ensuring all alerts are disseminated promptly to the relevant members of staff. • Monitoring the implementation and completion of the necessary actions within the required timescales. • Ensuring that there is a robust audit trail providing evidence of compliance and action taken.

	• Ensuring the compliance against the alerts will be presented at the Operational Quality, Safety and Experience Sub Committee, who will be accountable for advising the Board of any clinical or financial risks to the organisation.

Was the decision reached to proceed to full Equality Impact Assessment?		**No**
If no, are there any issues to be addressed?	Hywel Dda Health Board is committed to ensuring the health and safety of patients, staff and others; action on safety alerts helps to achieve this. Those most vulnerable are likely to have at least one and probably multiple protected characteristics and this is likely to have particular relevance for the very young, old and people with disabilities. This protocol will assist in protecting the safety and welfare of patients and so has a positive impact on the Human Rights of Patients. A trawl of similar written control documents in NHS Wales and Trusts in NHS England did not identify any potential negative impacts against any protected characteristic. No complaints have been received in relation to equality, diversity or human rights in relation to predecessor policies within the HB. The policy has been derived from a number of “best practice” examples and advice received from the Delivery Unit of the Welsh Government These amendments were assessed as having a positive or neutral impact on protected groups. The procedure is currently out for formal consultation, relevant feedback will be added to update this EqIA when available and any issues of concern raised will be addressed at that	

	point. **Feedback from consultation** – No comments were received during the formal consultation period.

Is the Policy Lawful?	**Yes** √	This procedure is informed by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) and NHS Estates

Will the Policy be adopted?	**Yes** √	This is an update of an existing written control document
	If no, please record the reason and any further action required:	

Are monitoring arrangements in place?	**Yes** ◘	
	The Quality Assurance and Safety Team (previously known as the Assurance, Safety and Improvement Team) will routinely monitor compliance and progress and will escalate concerns or issues as appropriate. The Health Board Operational Quality, Safety and Experience Sub Committee will monitor compliance every six months. Where matters need escalation, the Sub Committee will receive these by exception.	

	The Health Board is required to report to the Delivery Unit the compliance with patient safety solutions alerts. Any complaints received in relation to equality, diversity or human rights following implementation of the procedure will be addressed on an individual basis and appropriate action taken.

Who is the Lead Officer?	**Name:**	Mandy Rayani (review March 2020) (previous versions: Caroline Oakley - Director of Nursing and Midwifery)
	Title:	Director of Nursing, Quality and Patient Experience
	Department:	Nursing and Quality Directorate
Review Date of Policy:	The written control document will be reviewed every 3 years or sooner if required	

Signature of all parties:	**Name**	**Title**	**Signature**
	David James	Quality Improvement Manager	11/12/13 - Reviewed 01/2015 Reviewed 01/06/2015
	Stuart Moncur	Assistant Director	Reviewed 01/06/2015

		Assurance Safety and Improvement	
	Jackie Hooper	Equality and Diversity Advisor	11/12/13 – Reviewed 01/2015 Reviewed 01/06/2015
	Review March 2020		
	Cathie Steele	**Head of Quality and Governance**	**20/05/2020**
	Jackie Hooper	**Senior Diversity and Inclusion Officer**	**Partial update 26/03/2020**

Please Note: An Action Plan should be attached to this Outcome Report prior to signature

n/a at this stage 26/03/2020