

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE PATIENT SAFETY INCIDENT ANALYSIS USING SWARM HUDDLE METHODOLOGY

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VALIDITY - All local SOPS should be accessed via the Trust intranet

CHANGE RECORD

Version	Date	Change details
1.0	19 Oct 23	New SOP. Required to implement National Guidance (Patient Safety Incident Response Framework). Approved at QPaS (19 October 2023) with the proviso that the next review of this SOP is done within a 6 month timeframe.
1.1	16 May 2024	6 month review. Update chair and lead responsibities and timeframes. Approved at Quality and Patient Safety Group (QPaS) (16 May 2024).

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1. INTRODUCTION

Effective investigations enable the Trust to identify any risks within its activities and to take actions to reduce, prevent or mitigate those risks. Effective investigations also ensure learning from incidents can take place and that learning is shared to improve safety across all areas of the Trust.

Under the Patient Safety Incident Response Framework, the Trust can use several different tools to understand and learn from patient safety incidents, a Patient Safety Incident Analysis using Swarm methodology is one of these tools.

A Swarm Huddle was developed by NHS England and is designed to be used as soon as possible after a patient safety incident occurs. This SOP will describe how the Trust will utilise this methodology to ensure that patient safety incidents are investigated swiftly, using the SEIPS methodology* and ensuring patients and their families can contribute to the learning.

2. **DEFINITIONS**

Initial Incident Review	Initial Incident Review (72 hr report) A staff debrief to ascertain rapid gathering of facts and areas of immediate safety actions and learning ensuring that urgent action is taken to address risks. Report produced.		
Patient Safety Incident Analysis Utilising Swarm Huddle methodology	A review using the Swarm Huddle methodology, where a report is produced and shared with the patient/family to outline good practice/what has been learnt through the IIR and Swarm Huddle and any learning actions.		
	The Swarm Huddle uses the SEIPs Framework* and is designed to be initiated after an event and involves an MDT discussion with the lead reviewer. Staff come together to gather information about what happened and why it happened as soon after the incident as possible and decide what if anything, needs to be done to reduce the risk of the same thing happening in the future. It is non-punitive and a safe space to examine a patient safety incident and deliver learning.		
Patient Safety Incident investigation (PSII)	An in-depth investigation of a single patient safety incident or cluster of incidents which may be complex (ie involving more than one team) where it appears significant learning is required to understand, what happened and how using systems based methodology to identify good practice and any improvements in care delivery that are required.		

^{*} SEIPS is a framework for understanding outcomes within complex socio-technical systems. Ref: <u>B1465-SEIPS-quick-reference-and-work-system-explorer-v1-FINAL.pdf</u> (england.nhs.uk)

3. FLOW CHART FOR PATIENT SAFETY INCIDENT ANALYSIS (PSIA UTILISING SWARM HUDDLE METHODOLOGY

A PSIA utilising Swarm Huddle **methodology** should be undertaken when:

- Care has not gone as planned resulting in a patient safety incident
- Care has gone well in complex circumstances to identify good practice that can be shared

PSIAs Swarm will take place after an Initial Incident Review (IIR) has been completed and reviewed via the Trust patient safety team processes and it is felt a further review of care is required to maximise opportunities for learning and an in-depth Patient Safety Incident Investigation is not required.

PSIAs using Swarm Huddles enable insights and reflections to be quickly sought and generate prompt learning following a PSI. They can prevent:

- those affected forgetting key information because there is a time delay before their perspective on what happened is sought
- fear, gossip, and blame; by providing an opportunity to remind those involved that the aim following an incident is learning and improvement
- information about what happened and 'work as done' being lost because those affected leave the organisation where the incident occurred.

See flow chart on next page:

 Incident reported via Datix Discussed at the Corporare Safety Huddle meeting 24 hrs IIR requested IIR returned completed and sent to CRMG 72 hrs IIR reviewed at CRMG and agreed to proceed with PSIA within 1 week 7 days days session. weeks Lead sends in Draft report to the patient safety team weeks around. approval. - 1 week turn around. weeks 10 weeks

- Lead identified and meets with the patient safety team to discuss patient / family involvement, swarm attendee's and schedule dates for meeting and report completion dates.
- ·Lead to arrange to meet with the patient, family, carer if appropriate support is available from the patient safety manager for this visit. This must be done prior to the swarm meeting.
- Duty of Candour / Condolence letter to be sent and information regarding the investigation process
- Swarm huddle held and facilitated, if held on MS team this can be recorded to aid the lead to capture the
- Patient Safety team circulate the draft report to all Swarm huddle attendee's for comments. 10 day turn
- Draft final report sent to divisional clinical lead, for approval and sign off, safeguarding copied in for
- Report received back from the division and shared with the patient, families, carers if appropriate and requested to do so. - 2 week turn around where appropriate.

12 weeks

- Final report dent to Director of Nursing if a death for final approval.
- Reviewed and finalised and shared with the legal team if required.

12 weeks •Final letter sent to the family and report will follow if requested. Will be led by the patient, family, carer for what they require.

12 weeks All learning to be tracked and embedded within practice and signed off in CTLG.

16

weeks

 Lead to meet with all those involved and complete a feedback session and complete the 7 minute briefing to be shared wider across the trust.

Week one

A SWARM preparation meeting will be coordinated by the Engagement lead with the Identified Lead of the PSIA to discuss patient, family involvement, swarm attendee's and schedule dates for meeting and report completion. Letter to be sent to the patient, family / carer informing them of the review.

Week two/three

The lead reviewer contacts the family to explain the review that will be undertaken and to ask if they have any question areas that can be considered in the Swarm huddle. A face-to-face meeting can be arranged by the lead, supported by the engagement lead if appropriate.

The Patient Safety Administration Team will circulate to those attending the Swarm Huddle the IIR report, Navigating Difficult Events at Work Booklet, the PSIA using Swarm methodology SOP and the Swarm Ground rules, so that they can prepare for the session.

The Patient Safety Administration Team will prepopulate the PSIA template with information from the IIR and a SWARM Template will also be sent to the Lead Reviewer for use in the meeting to draft any notes.

Week Four-Undertaking a SWARM HUDDLE

A senior member of the Patient Safety Team will chair the Swarm Huddles on behalf of the lead reviewer

The PSIA Lead and Chair will make notes of the Swarm Huddle to support the writing of the report.

The lead reviewer will have access to a Swarm Huddle template to be used during the huddle-this will serve as an aide memoire for the reviewer and will also support capturing initial learning for immediate action.

Following the Swarm Huddle, unless the case has been escalated to the Director of Nursing, AHP and Social Work Professionals for further investigation the lead reviewer should complete the PSIA report (see template appendix 4)

Week Seven

The Patient Safety Team send the draft report to Swarm huddle attendees for feedback. They will then coordinate feedback from the Swarm Huddle attendees and liaise with the lead investigator re any changes. 10 days turn around.

Week Nine

Draft final report sent to the divisional clinical lead and safeguarding for approval and sign off -1 week turnaround.

Week 10

Report received back from the division and shared with the patient, families and carers if appropriate and requested to do so -2 week turn around where appropriate.

Week 12 Approval of PSIA Reports

The final draft of the report will be sent to the Director of Nursing if a death for final approval. Report reviewed and finalised by the patient safety team shared with the Clinical Risk Management Group (CRMG) Final letter will be sent to the patient, family, or carer with a copy of the final report if requested and a face-to-face feedback session offered to the family.

Week 12 -16

Lead reviewer to arrange a feedback meeting with all those involved in the investigation to discuss findings and learning from the incident including good practice. The lead will also complete the 7-minute briefing for wider circulation.

Time scales for the investigation must be flexible to meet the needs of the patient, family and carer engagement. Some cases will be very complex and may require more time to complete, if timescales are not adhered too for any reason this must be escalated to the patient safety team, who will liaise with the director of Nursing to extend the deadlines.

PSIA report

The template used for a PSIA will lift the chronology and other pertinent data from the IIR, it is a requirement for the lead of the PSIA to make sure the chronology is correct and any unanswered questions from the review by CRMG. The extract of the minutes where the IIR was reviewed by CRMG will be sent to the Lead by the Patient Safety Team Administrator.

The report will clarify areas raised by the family and CRMG and focus on presenting what was learnt from the Swarm Huddle capturing good practice and any additional learning.

Escalation to a Patient Safety Incident Investigation (PSII)

If during the Swarm huddle more information arises indicating that the incident more likely than not arose due to significant problems in care/ the incident is complex i.e. involving multiple teams/external partners this must be captured in the Swarm report template and the senior member of the Patient Safety Team supporting the Swarm Huddle must raise with the Director of Nursing, Allied Health & Social Care Professionals/Deputy in their absence for consideration of undertaking a Patient Safety Incident Investigation.

4. SCOPE

This SOP applies to all permanent (clinical and non-clinical) staff, locum, agency, bank and voluntary staff and students working within the Trust.

All Trust staff with responsibility for managing patient safety incidents must follow these procedures to ensure incidents are reviewed accordingly.

5. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Director of Nursing, AHP & Social Care Professionals/Medical Director

The Director of Nursing has overall responsibility for patient safety and both the Director of Nursing, and the Medical Director can commission a patient safety incident analysis using Swarm huddle methodology.

The Director of Nursing will ensure the SOP is complied with and monitor through appropriate committees.

Deputy Director of Nursing, AHP & Social Care Professionals

As the Chair of CRMG, the Deputy Director of Nursing can commission a patient safety incident analysis using Swarm huddle methodology and will facilitate a Swarm Huddle when required. They will be available to support staff involved in the process both before and after.

The Deputy Director of Nursing will sign off the final PSIA report in circumstances where the patient has not died, following approval by the Divisional Clinical Lead.

Assistant Director of Nursing (ADoN)

The Assistant Director of Nursing can commission a patient safety incident analysis using Swarm huddle methodology, will facilitate a Swarm Huddle when required. They will be available to support staff involved in the process both before and after.

The Governance and Patient Safety Team - will provide advice, support and training on the process and will facilitate the setting up of Swarm Huddles. They will collate themes and disseminate learning as agreed at CRMG.

Governance and Patient Safety Administrator- will arrange Swarm Huddles, send out documentation to support patient safety incident analysis using Swarm huddle methodology, which includes.

- Swarm Huddle agenda
- PSIA Template prepopulated from the IIR for completion by the Lead Reviewer
- Completed IIR
- Send the Lead of the PSIA the extract of the minutes of CRMG where the IIR was reviewed
- Information regarding the process and support booklet for staff

They will also ensure the completed PSIA form is circulated to the DON and the Clinical Director and the appropriate Divisional General Manager and Clinical leads and that the report is sent for inclusion on the next CRMG meeting.

Divisional Clinical Leads- will collaborate with the patient safety team and lead on the following for their division:

- Identifying a lead reviewer for the PSIA
- Identify with the lead which staff should be involved in a PSIA Swarm Huddle, offering support to those who are attending the meeting.
- Ensuring staff have received a copy of the Navigating Difficult Events at Work booklet prior to the Swarm Huddle
- Ensuring that staff who are attending a Swarm Huddle have been offered a debrief, appropriate psychological support in preparation for the Huddle
- Ensuring staff have access to appropriate support following a Swarm Huddle
- Final approval of a PSIA report
- Ensuring the learning is shared across their clinical areas and division
- Monitoring actions arising from PSIA's and ensuring they are implemented and signed off at CTLG.

Divisional General Managers- as above

Matron/Line Manager/Team Leader- as above

Matron/Line manager/team leader is responsible for ensuring:

- Staff are familiar with this procedure and adhere to the instructions referred to
- Staff attend training applicable to their role
- Staff are given the Swarm Huddle leaflet prior to the Swarm huddle
- Support is offered to the person/s involved in the Swarm huddle and is documented.
- Staff are given a copy of 'Navigating Difficult Events at Work' booklet.

Chair of Swarm Huddle

The chair's role is to create a safe and brave space where the staff involved in a recent patient safety incident feel able to speak up and share their recollections without feeling blamed.

Facilitating a Swarm requires a facilitator who:

- models the values of a just and learning culture.
- has excellent active listening, emotional intelligence, and facilitation skills.
- is confident they can support a multi-disciplinary team to openly reflect on what happened and why soon after a patient safety incident.
- is inclusive and who will encourage everyone's voice and recollections to be shared, irrespective of their level of seniority, professional background and/or personality type (e.g., introvert or extrovert).
- will calmly and respectfully shut down conversations of blame and who recognises and acts on non-verbal and verbal cues that staff members are struggling with the Swarm conversation.
- can clearly communicate the Swarm's aims.
- is curious and open-minded, encouraging others to explore a work system.

Lead Reviewer

The lead reviewer will be agreed by the clinical division and divisions. The lead reviewer can be from the division in which the incident occurred however divisions will have reciprocal arrangements in place between each other to lead a Patient Safety Incident Analysis on behalf of each other when it is felt necessary, to support a level of independence from the clinical area within which the incident occurred.

The Lead Reviewer is responsible for:

- Meeting with the person and or family member/carer to discuss the review and any concerns or areas they wish to be considered as part of this.
- Work closely with the engagement lead and follow the Engaging and Involving patients, families and staff following a patient safety incident policy and procedure.
- Keep the person and or their family up to date on the progress of the review in a timeframe agreed with them.
- Consider the care delivered against statute, national (NICE) and local guidance (policies and procedures)
- Produce a report using the Trust PSIA report template, which is informed by the Swarm Huddle
- Provide a verbal update to the division on the findings prior to the completion of the report and subsequent action plan
- · Complete the review within the timescales agreed
- Ensure the Patient Safety Team has copies of all investigation supporting documentation,
- Meet with the family following completion of the review and share a draft approved report
- Feedback the outcome of the investigation to all staff involved in the process
- Attend coroners court as the lead investigator where required

Attendess of Swarm Huddle

People are invited to Swarm huddles based on their involvement with the patient/ family/ carer, and/or their exertise is requested, and/or they can offer insights and contributions valuable to learning. Individuals are responsible for:

- Prioritising attendance at the Swarm huddle
- Demonstrating respect, curiosity and compassion for others
- Knowing the details of the case, through reading the IIR and records
- Avoiding blame language or hindsight bias
- Being open and transparent in the interests of learning
- Following the ground rules
- If finding it difficult to speak up in the Swarm, contacting the lead author at the break or at the end to raise things for consideration

6. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Corporate Safety Huddle

- Group undertakes reviews of all reported patient safety incidents submitted over the preceding 24 hours (Monday to Friday).
- Incident category and severity reviewed and amended if required in line with National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS) guidance.

Clinical Risk Management Group (CRMG) – meets weekly to review all the Initial Incident Review (IIR) reports and commissions Swarm huddles. Reports to QPAS. CRMG may request more information on an incident in order to confirm level of investigation required.

- Theming up of learning and actions
- Identify the key areas of focus for a Swarm Huddle to be included in the terms of reference for the PSIA

Closing the Loop Group- meets six weekly- reports to QPAS

- Signs off closure of action plans
- Receives evidence from divisions to close actions from patient safety investigation and determines if evidence is adequate to close action or if further evidence is required
- Determines need and method for monitoring actions embedded into practice, i.e clinical audit
- Every quarter invites ICB to share learning from incidents and improvements as a result of learning

Quality and Patient Safety Group (QPaS) Reports to the Quality Committee

- Ratifies closure of action plans
- Overseeing process and receives a bi monthly report on learning themes

Quality Committee - Board Sub-Committee

- Receives assurances that effective systems are in place across the organisation in relation to patient safety
- Encourages learning to take place from the consideration of themes arising form patient safety investigations

7. PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

When should the process be applied?

Once an IIR has been completed and reviewed and it is deemed by the DON/ DDN/ADM that further investigation is required to enable identification of learning.

A Patient Safety Incident Analysis should be completed within 16 weeks as per the flowchart in section 3.

A Swarm Huddle will be held no later than 4 weeks following receipt and review of an IIR in CRMG.

Completed PSIA reports will be submitted to

- Director of Nursing, Allied Health & Social Care Professionals
- Medical Director
- Deputy Director of Nursing, Allied Health & Social Care Professionals
- Assistant Director of Nursing, Patient Safety, and compliance
- Clinical Director
- Divisional Clinical Leads
- Divisional General Managers
- All staff involved in the Swarm huddle

Divisional governance processes will monitor safety actions.

Learning themes will be captured and collated by the Patient Safety Team and reported to QPaS quarterly.

CRMG will discuss and agree where in the organisation learning from the Swarm will be shared.

All staff involved in the process will also be sent a short questionnaire by the Patient Safety Team to be completed within 14 days of Swarm huddle feedback from this will be collated and reported quarterly to QPaS.

8. PATIENT AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

The Lead reviewer for the PSIA will contact the patient and/or the family, explain the review being undertaken and provide an opportunity for the patient/family to raise any areas of concern or questions they wish to be explored in the review, linked to the Engaging and Involving patients, families and staff following a patient safety incident policy and procedure.

Where a patient has died in unnatural and unexpected circumstances the family will be written to by the Director of Nursing to offer condolences as soon as the notification of the persons death has been received. The family will be offered an opportunity to contact the Trust.

The Trust seeks to promote a culture of openness, which is a pre-requisite for improving patient safety and the quality of healthcare systems. For further information, please refer to the Trust Duty of Candour Policy which can be accessed at this link.

On completion of the PSIA the Lead reviewer supported by the engagement lead if required, will make arrangements to share the report with the patient/family and go through any questions they may have.

9. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

All staff in the Trust are required to undertake Patient Safety Level 1a mandatory for all staff from November 2024.

PSIA awareness sessions will be available for all staff to attend. These are aimed at lead reviewers and those who may participate in a SWARM Huddle.

Board Members and Senior Leads are required to complete Patient Safety Level 1b mandatory for all Board members and Senior Leads.

All Lead Reviewers must complete Systems Approach to Learning from patient safety incidents 2 days course. Lead Reviewers will also receive in house training on chairing Swarm Huddles and offered a shadowing session.

10. REFERENCES

Patient Safety Incident Response Framework- August 2022

Overarching policies/plans the SOP links with:

- The Patient Safety Incident Reporting Plan (PSIRP)
- Risk Management policy
- Incident Reporting Policy and Procedure (N -038)
- Engaging and Involving patients, families and staff following a patient safety incident policy and procedure

APPENDIX 1 - TIPS FOR FACILITATING A SWARM HUDDLE

Tip 1: Put aside the hierarchy when Step 1: Introduce carrying out introductions: Stand in a Tip 10: Check that those who took part are okay and thank semi-circle. Do introductions in the order everyone by name and them for participating in the swarm in which staff are standing, not in order role of seniority. Tip 2: Be clear that everyone's Tip 9: Be realistic when agreeing recollections and perspective is Step 6: Identify safety Step 2: Create a safe deadlines for completing actions equally important & you want actions, assign leads and a brave space to everyone's perspective to be and deadlines (where ensure everyone's heard. feasible) voice is heard Tip 8: Be clear on who is Tip 3: Co-create the ground rules responsible for taking forward by asking a question like, 'How actions identified from the swarm might we ensure everyone's perspective and recollections are heard?' Tip 7: Thinking beyond the Step 5: Identify where else Step 3: Replay the Tip 4: Run the swarm as close to team/area where the event in the organisation the event that prompted occurred helps to identify other the area where the event learning from the swarm the swarm areas/teams which may be happened as possible. may be relevant vulnerable to a similar incident happening in the future. Step 4: Explore what Tip 5: Consider carrying out a happened and why walk-through or staging a through the lens of the reconstruction in the area where SEIPS framework the event occurred. Tip 6: Use the SEIPS swarm work system prompts (figure 3)

to frame the discussion

How to carry out an effective Swarm huddle

An effective Swarm involves six steps:

- Introduce all participants so everyone knows each other's name and their role in the Swarm.
- Create a safe and 'brave' space by reassuring participants that the purpose of the Swarm is to identify what happened and why by exploring the systems and contexts in which patient care was being delivered.
- Replay the events that led to the patient safety incident.
- Explore what happened and why, through the lens of the Swarm work system prompts (appendix 3).
 - Identify safety actions, and where feasible, assign specific deliverables and completion dates to leads.
 - Identify where else in the organisation the learning from the Swarm may be relevant.

SWARM Huddle Ground Rules

- Behave in line with a trauma informed approach- we do not know individuals'
 personal histories or how someone can respond to a particular incident so we will Humber Teaching
 be mindful
- Actively listen, listen to hear rather than listen to respond
- Take turns, everyone gets a say
- Demonstrate respect to others and their perspectives and thoughts
- We are all peers and there is no place for hierarchy within the roomeveryone's unique contribution is valued
- Value diversity of opinions, experience and roles
- Acknowledge feelings and treat each other with compassion
- Incisive questioning, based on curiosity rather than assumption
- Be mindful of hindsight bias and challenging ourselves when we fall into that place
- Ignite thinking- this is a time to think and move beyond initial ideas to deeper thinking and creative solutions so don't be afraid to share ideas

Prepare for the SWARM prior, read the notes, IIR and SOP

Caring, Learning & Growing Together

APPENDIX 3 - SWARM WORK SYSTEM PROMPTS

Swarm work system prompts

Tools & Technology

Equipment/tools/IT:

- design (including how information is presented)
- · availability appropriateness
- reliability
- positioning
- maintenance

Alarms and/or alerts

Automated tasks

Accessibility and usability of manuals, procedures, supports

Organisation

- Patient pathways
- Information flow (how information is communicated)
- Communications workload
- How new information is flagged and where it is held
- · Leadership and supervision
- · Work scheduling and allocation
- Staffing levels and resourcing
- Safety/organisational culture
- Change management

- Task demands (ie competing
- Task complexity
- Workload

tasks)

Tasks

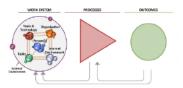
- Time pressures
- Task repetition and monotony
- Task re-prioritisation or reorganisation

Person

- Patient mix
- The team (eg clinical, admin, domestic)
- Team familiarity with processes and pathways
- · Clarity of roles and responsibilities
- Training and education
- Team dynamics
- Personal factors (eg stress, morale, tiredness)

Internal environment

- Physical workspace design
- Layout of the environment
- Workspace appropriateness for the tasks
- Distractions and their impact
- Interruptions and their impact
- Ambient environment (eg lighting, noise, air quality)



Desired Outcomes

System Performance:

Human Wellbeing:

Appreciative inquiry question:

The SEIPS model sets out desired outcomes— what are you aiming to achieve when you deliver patient care?

External environment

- Relevant national targets
- Policy and regulatory demands
- Accreditation standards
- · Political decision making
- Global events

APPENDIX 4 - PATIENT SAFETY INCIDENT ANALYSIS TEMPLATE

Patient Safety Incident Analysis Template

APPENDIX 5 - SWARM TEMPLATE TO SUPPORT PSIA REPORT WRITING

The way in which information is gathered during a Swarm Huddle is based on the use of the SEIPS model.

Areas to explore:

Domain	Question	Notes
Tasks	What technology is being used, how is this working/	
	supporting, any challenges?	
	What equipment have people access to, is it what is	
	needed? How is it access used? How are people	
	supported to use it?	
	Are there procedures in place, how are they understood,	
	applied in practice, any challenges?	
	What are demands on the individual of the task, is it	
	complex, complicated, have they competing demands?	
	Are there any time pressures as a result of demands or	
	the task and how does this impact?	
	What is the workload, capacity, demand Is the task repetitive, if so what impact does that have on	
	concentration?	
	How are people prioritising?	
Tools and technology	What technology is being used, how is this working/	
	supporting, any challenges?	
	What equipment have people access to, is it what is	
	needed? How is it access used? How are people	
	supported to use it?	
	What resources do staff have?	
	What equipment have they and how does it help/ hinder?	
	How is work allocated/ monitored?	
	What do people have to help them with the job being	
	asked?	
	What electronic systems are in use, how do they work in	
Opposition	respect of the incident?	
Organisation	What is the patient pathway	
	How is information shared and with whom	
	What is the leadership?	
	How are people supported/supervised?	

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Where is safety, how is this understood	
Any changes impacting or disruptions	
How are issues escalated/ flagged?	
Consideration around patient mix	
Issues around team, newness, maturity of team,	
cohesion?	
Anything affecting individuals, personal factors (link with	
KPI's	
Policy or legislation changes	
Accreditation	
·	
·	
,	
	Consideration around patient mix Issues around team, newness, maturity of team, cohesion? Anything affecting individuals, personal factors (link with Just Culture appendix 6) What are the roles and responsibilities, who is responsible for what and how is this understood? What training and education is provided/ available Any team dynamics to consider National targets KPI's Policy or legislation changes

A just culture guide

Supporting consistent, constructive and fair evaluation of the actions of staff involved in patient safety incidents

This guide supports a conversation between managers about whether a staff member involved in a patient safety incident requires specific individual support or intervention to work safely. Action singling out an individual is rarely appropriate - most patient safety issues have deeper causes and require wider action.

The actions of staff involved in an incident should **not** automatically be examined using this *just culture guide*, but it can be useful if the investigation of an incident begins to suggest a concern about an individual action. The guide highlights important principles that need to be considered before formal management action is directed at an individual staff member.

An important part of a just culture is being able to explain the approach that will be taken if an incident occurs. A just culture guide can be used by all parties to explain how they will respond to incidents, as a reference point for organisational HR and incident reporting policies, and as a communication tool to help staff, patients and families understand how the appropriate response to a member of staff involved in an incident can and should differ according to the circumstances in which an error was made. As well as protecting staff from unfair targeting, using the guide helps protect patients by removing the tendency to treat wider patient safety issues as individual issues.

Please note:

- A just culture guide is not a replacement for an investigation of a patient safety incident. Only a full investigation can identify the underlying causes that need to be acted on to reduce the risk of future incidents.
- A just culture guide can be used at any point of an investigation, but the guide may need to be revisited as more information becomes available.
- A just culture guide does not replace HR advice and should be used in conjunction with organisational policy.
- The guide can only be used to take one action (or failure to act) through the guide at a time. If multiple actions are involved in an incident they must be considered separately.



Start here - Q1. deliberate harm test

1a. Was there any intention to cause harm?



Recommendation: Follow organisational guidance for appropriate management action. This could involve: contact relevant regulatory bodies, suspension of staff, and referral to police and disciplinary processes. Wider investigation is still needed to understand how and why patients were not protected from the actions of the individual.

END HERE



No go to next question - Q2. health test

2a. Are there indications of substance abuse?



Recommendation: Follow organisational substance abuse at work guidance. Wider investigation is still needed to understand if substance abuse could have been recognised and addressed earlier.

HERE

2b. Are there indications of physical ill health?

2c. Are there indications of mental ill health?



Recommendation: Follow organisational guidance for health issues affecting work, which is likely to include occupational health referral. Wider investigation is still needed to understand if health issues could have been recognised and addressed earlier.

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if No to all go to next question - Q3. foresight test

3a. Are there agreed protocols/accepted practice in place that apply to the action/omission in question?

3b. Were the protocols/accepted practice workable and in routine use?

3c. Did the individual knowingly depart from these protocols?



Recommendation: Action singling out the individual is unlikely to be appropriate; the patient safety incident investigation should indicate the wider actions needed to improve safety for future patients. These actions may include, but not be limited to, the individual.

END HERE

if Yes to all go to next question - Q4. substitution test

4a. Are there indications that other individuals from the same peer group, with comparable experience and qualifications, would behave in the same way in similar circumstances?

4b. Was the individual missed out when relevant training was provided to their peer group?

4c. Did more senior members of the team fail to provide supervision that normally should be provided?



Recommendation: Action singling out the individual is unlikely to be appropriate; the patient safety incident investigation should indicate the wider actions needed to improve safety for future patients. These actions may include, but not be limited to, the individual.

END HERE

if No to all go to next question - Q5. mitigating circumstances

5a. Were there any significant mitigating circumstances?



Recommendation: Action directed at the individual may not be appropriate; follow organisational guidance, which is likely to include senior HR advice on what degree of mitigation applies. The patient safety incident investigation should indicate the wider actions needed to improve safety for future patients.

END



if No

Recommendation: Follow organisational guidance for appropriate management action. This could involve individual training, performance management, competency assessments, changes to role or increased supervision, and may require relevant regulatory bodies to be contacted, staff suspension and disciplinary processes. The patient safety incident investigation should indicate the wider actions needed to improve safety for future patients.

APPENDIX 7 - EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

For strategies, policies, procedures, processes, guidelines, protocols, tenders, services

- 1. Document or Process or Service Name: Swarm Huddle Standard Operating Procedure
- EIA Reviewer (name, job title): Colette Conway, Assistant Director of Nursing, Patient Safety and Compliance
- 3. Is it a Policy, Strategy, Procedure, Process, Tender, Service or Other? Standard Operating Procedure

Main Aims of the Document, Process or Service -

To support the implementation of the Patient Safety Incident Analysis using Swarm methodology.

Please indicate in the table that follows whether the document or process has the potential to impact adversely, intentionally or unwittingly on the equality target groups contained in the pro forma

adversely, intentionally t				
Equality Target Group				
1.	Age			
2.	Disability			
3.	Sex			
4.	Marriage/Civil			
	Partnership			
5.	Pregnancy/Maternity			
_				

Race

Religion/Belief 7. Sexual Orientation 8. Gender reIs the document or process likely to have a potential or actual differential impact with regards to the equality target groups listed?

Equality Impact Score Low = Little or No evidence or concern Medium = some evidence or concern(Amber)

High = significant evidence or concern (Red)

How have you arrived at the equality impact score?

- who have you consulted with
- what have they said
- what information or data have you c) used
- d) where are the gaps in your analysis
- how will your document/process or service promote equality and diversity good practice

assignment						
Equality Target		Definitions	Equality Impa		Evidence to support Equality Impact	
Group	Group		Score		Score	
Age grou Olde You Chile		Including specific ages and age groups: Older people Young people Children Early years			Review of this policy has taken place to ensure no group is adversely affected by this policy.	
Disability Disability Who sub effer carr Ser Phy Lea Mer (inc		tre the impairment has a stantial and long term adverse of on the ability of the person to yout their day to day activities: sory sical raing tal health uding cancer, HIV, multiple rosis)	Low		Review of this policy has taken place to ensure no group is adversely affected by this policy.	
Sex		/Male nen/Female	Low		Review of this policy has taken place to ensure no group is adversely affected by this policy.	
Marriage/Civil Partnership			Low		Review of this policy has taken place to ensure no group is adversely affected by this policy.	
Pregnancy/ Maternity			Low		Review of this policy has taken place to ensure no group is adversely affected by this policy.	
Race	Ethn	onality iic/national origins	Low		Review of this policy has taken place to ensure no group is adversely affected by this policy.	
Religion or Belief	Inclu whe	eligions Iding lack of religion or belief and re belief includes any religious or Isophical belief	Low		Review of this policy has taken place to ensure no group is adversely affected by this policy.	
Sexual Orientation	Lest Gay Bise	men	Low		Review of this policy has taken place to ensure no group is adversely affected by this policy.	

Gender Reassignment

Where people are proposing to undergo, or have undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning the person's sex by changing physiological or other attribute of sex

Low

Review of this policy has taken place to ensure no group is adversely affected by this policy.

Summary

Please describe the main points/actions arising from your assessment that supports your decision.

This SOP will be adopted system wide within the Trust and is applicable to all members of staff. The procedures detailed will be applied unilaterally across the organisation.

EIA Reviewer: Sadie Milner

Date completed: 21-03-24 Signature: S. K. Milner