



Our Ref: ACM/DJL/NJS/CQC Brief

10 November 2009

Councillor Patricia Morgan
Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee
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Dear Councillor Morgan

RE: Care Quality Commission - Periodic Review 2009/10 Report and Annual Performance Rating Results 2008/09

I am writing to inform you of our predicted position for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Periodic Review which incorporates the Trusts declaration of compliance for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 October 2009 as part of the 2009/10 review.

For your information I have also included a brief summary on the CQC Annual Health Check results for 2008/09.

• **Periodic Review 2009/10**

2009/10 is a transitional year between the previous system of the annual health check in 2008/09 and the new system of registration in 2010. The review will have three components of assessment:

- Compliance with core standards.
- Performance against the government's national priorities and existing commitments.
- Quality of financial management.

To avoid confusion with providers' applications for registration, which starts in January 2010, the CQC have requested a core standards declaration mid year. However, Trusts are required to comply with the core standards for the entire assessment year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

Appendix One shows the predicted compliance against the core standards as at 9 November 2009. However, the compliance could change between now and the Trust Board meeting on 25 November 2009 when Board members agree the period review declaration. The Trust Board is also obliged to inform the CQC of any significant change as it occurs and no later than 31 March 2010 when they confirm the declaration.

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Appendix Two shows the National Priorities and Standards for 2009-10. This document provides an overview of the Trust's compliance with the National Priorities and Standards that the Trust is expected to comply with.

Following a period of consultation the Care Quality Commission (CQC) is expected to release guidance on how it will be assessing Trusts compliance with regulation requirements in early December.

Until the above has been released the CQC expect Trusts to continue to comply with Standards for Better Health.

Should you require any further information or a member of my team to attend a meeting to explain in more detail of our declaration please do not hesitate to contact myself on the above telephone number or Diane Lee, Director of Corporate Services on 01384 246442.

- **Care Quality Commission (CQC) – Performance Rating Results 2008/09**

Earlier in October the Care Quality Commission published their Annual Health check results for last year and West Midlands Ambulance Service scored as follows:

- Quality of Services – Fair
- Quality of Financial Management - Good

The Trust is disappointed in our Quality of Service score which has dropped from 'Excellent' for the preceding year.

For clarification of the three components

- **Compliance with core standards**

The Trust was upheld as 'compliant' with all standards.

- **Performance against the government's national priorities and existing commitments**

The Trust was fully compliant with all existing commitments, however, there have been some additional measurements of national priorities. The Trust passed nine of the twelve new clinical standards assessed, underachieved on two (management of stroke and transient ischemic attacks) and failed on one (the management of asthma). Action plans to improve these indicators have been put in place to ensure the organisation improves on these areas.

- **Quality of financial management**

The Trust improved its rating of 'fair' to 'good' for 2008/09.

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I hope this briefing document assists with your input into the periodic review, however, if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A. C. Marsh.

Anthony C. Marsh
Chief Executive Officer

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