

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING  
18<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2011

QUALITY ACCOUNT 2010/11 REPORT  
HEREFORD HOSPITALS NHS TRUST

**1) Introduction**

This report provides committee members with an update on the current situation with the Quality Accounts 2010/11.

All NHS Providers are required to produce annual Quality Accounts; last year was the first year when all acute providers had to do so and members of the Committee will recall meeting to scrutinise it before submission to the Department of Health. This year we are seeking wider engagement earlier in the process, including with the required commentators such as the Health Scrutiny Committee. We are required to send a copy of the Quality Account to the Health Scrutiny Committee, Primary Care Trust and LINK by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011, after which, they have up to 30 days to comment. All comments received will be included in the submitted report which must be sent to the Department of Health not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June.

**2) Recommendation**

This year, the timeline will present a specific problem due to the Council elections taking place in May. Much of the report has to be written in April when we have the end of year data but we are able to start forward planning. The Trust would recommend:-

- ◆ An organised workshop event for Health Scrutiny Committee members week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011 (this will enable timely access to required data)
- ◆ Draft Quality Accounts to be forwarded to existing Health Scrutiny Committee members for comment
- ◆ The Health Scrutiny Committee Chair to 'sign off' final Quality Accounts

The Trust would like to seek guidance from the Committee on how we and they might discharge this responsibility.

**3) Background**

The Quality Account is perceived as a means for Trusts to:-

- ◆ Demonstrate the organisation's commitment to continuous, evidence-based quality improvement across all services
- ◆ Set out to patients where we will and need to improve
- ◆ Receive challenge and support from local scrutineers on what we are trying to achieve
- ◆ Be held to account by the public and local stakeholders for delivering quality improvements

In the coming year HHT and Herefordshire PCT Provider Services will be coming together as an integrated care organisation. The 'forward looking' section and goal setting, therefore, needs to reflect the new organisation rather than the current one. We have already, in the process of developing plans for the ICO, had a significant amount of engagement with the public and other stakeholders from which we know many of the issues that matter to people in health services. A common theme is 'get the basics right' and this will be one of our primary drivers for sustaining and improving quality as it also work well across the whole

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spectrum of acute and community services. This means monitoring and taking actions to reduce things like:-

- ◆ Pressure sores
- ◆ Falls with injury
- ◆ Inadequate fluid intake
- ◆ Catheter related infections

We will also continue to work on specific areas such as stroke care, which was a priority last year, but where although there have been improvements put in place there is still significant improvement to make.

As well as priorities highlighted in the Quality Account, we will be continuing to monitor a wide range of quality issues and focusing overall on reducing avoidable mortality and avoidable harm. These, and the basic care issues, will be brought together in a targeted improvement program using National guidelines which we are calling 'Putting People First'. If members of the Committee have other areas, than those mentioned, we will be happy to consider putting those in the programme. Any suggestions should be sent to Dr Alison Budd, Medical Director at [alison.budd@htr.nhs.uk](mailto:alison.budd@htr.nhs.uk).

**Alison Budd**  
**Medical Director**  
**Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust**