

Board of Directors (in Public)

Item 2.1

Subject: Learning from Deaths Dashboard Q4 22/23
Date of Meeting: 26th April 2023
Presented by: Dr Raphael Perry, Medical Director
Purpose of Report: For Noting

BAF Reference	Impact on BAF
BAF 1	Possible avoidable patient harm

Level of assurance (please tick one) To be used when the content of the report provides evidence of assurance					
✓	Acceptable assurance Controls are suitably designed, with evidence of them being consistently applied and effective in practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partial assurance Controls are still maturing – evidence shows that further action is required to improve their effectiveness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low assurance Evidence indicates poor effectiveness of controls

1. Executive Summary

Guidance on learning from deaths was published by the National Quality Board in March 2017 and was presented to the Board of Directors in May 2017. Quarterly reports have been presented to the Board of Directors since.

Deaths are categorised as to the likelihood of being avoidable or not (on balance of probability >/< 50:50) and the data collected centrally each quarter.

This quarterly report presents the mortality dashboard for Q4 22/23 (Appendix 1) and the cumulative in year data.

The Board of Directors is asked to note the data and the Trust's compliance with national guidance in terms of review of deaths to ensure learning.

2. Background

The threshold of defining preventable death is on the basis of more likely than not encompassing the categories of definitely avoidable, strong evidence of avoidability and probably avoidable (greater than 50:50). Deaths are classified using the RCP (Royal College of Physicians) methodology unless they occur in individuals with an

identified learning disability. In those individuals LeDeR (Learning Disability Mortality Review) methodology is used, and a full review carried out without prior screening.

The mortality review policy was reviewed and updated in October 2021 and the robust mortality review process continues.

All deaths have an initial review by the Deputy Director of Nursing to assess any issues raised by families and carers. In addition, the Medical Examiners and Medical Examiner Officer discuss issues raised by families at the time of death certification. Any concerns raised by the families after a period of reflection are responded to and where appropriate investigated. If the death is considered avoidable or classed as an incident full duty of candour is exercised and the resultant RCA discussed with families.

3. Dashboard Q4 2022/23

There have been fifty deaths in the trust between January and March 2023. For comparison the total number of deaths in the trust for Q3 2022/23 was thirty-four. In Q4 forty of the deaths have been through the complete mortality review process. There have been no deaths in patients with an identified learning disability. The total quarterly number of deaths remains in the expected range.

In interpreting the attached spreadsheet, it should be borne in mind that there may be an adjustment of the previous quarter's assessment of avoidability. This is because some of the returned full reviews will subsequently have been recalibrated by the mortality review group at their monthly meeting. Some cases rated by reviewer as less than 50:50 may have been deemed avoidable by the Mortality Review Group (MRG) and vice-versa.

In Q4 2022/23 one death has been classified greater than 50:50 chance of avoidability by the mortality review process, strong evidence of avoidability (RCP 2).

Of those less than 50:50 in Q4 no deaths were classed probably avoidable but not very likely (RCP4); three deaths (7.5%) were classed as slight evidence of avoidability (RCP5); thirty-six deaths (90.0%) were classed as definitely not avoidable (RCP6).

4. Annual deaths

The figures for the 2022/23 year are a total of 182 deaths, 172 of which have been through MRG. There are six avoidable deaths in the year in total; three classed as probably avoidable >50:50 (RCP3) and three classed as strong evidence of avoidability (RCP 2). The six avoidable deaths constitute 3.4% of all deaths.

In 2021/22 there were a total of 223 deaths compared to 191 deaths in 19/20. The total number of avoidable deaths during 2021/22 was ten; three definitely avoidable (RCP 1), three with strong evidence of avoidability (RCP 2) and four probably avoidable (more than 50:50 – RCP 3). This constituted 4.4% of all deaths that year.

5. Conclusion

The trust complies with national guidance and populates the mortality dashboard. There is one avoidable death in Q4. The annual number of total deaths is significantly lower than the previous year as is the percentage of avoidable death.

Actions from the MRG process will be taken forward by the appropriate division.

6. Recommendations

The Board of Directors is asked to note the dashboard data for Q4 and the 2022/23 annual data.