

Board of Directors (in Public)

Item 2.2

Subject: Learning from Deaths Dashboard Q2 22/23
Date of Meeting: 28th November 2022
Presented by: Dr Raphael Perry – Medical Director
Purpose of Report: For Noting

BAF Reference	Impact on BAF
BAF 1	Assurance regarding learning from deaths and possible avoidable patient harm

Level of assurance (please tick one) <i>To be used when the content of the report provides evidence of assurance</i>					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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 an overview of the mortality dashboard for Q2 22/23 and the cumulative in year data.

The Board is asked to note the report.

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 Q2 2022/23

There have been forty eight deaths in the trust between July and September 2022. For comparison the total number of deaths in the trust for Q1 2022/23 was fifty. In Q2 forty-three 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 MRG and vice-versa.

In Q2 22/23 one death has been classified greater than 50:50 chance of avoidability by the mortality reviewer but, at the time of writing, not yet ratified by the MRG. This was classed probably avoidable, greater than 50:50 (RCP3).

Of those less than 50:50 in Q2 four deaths (9.3%) were classed probably avoidable but not very likely (RCP4); two deaths (4.7%) were classed as slight evidence of avoidability (RCP5); thirty six deaths (83.7%) were classed as definitely not avoidable (RCP6).

Annual deaths

The figures for the 22/23 year to date are a total of 98 deaths, ninety two of which have been through MRG. There are three avoidable deaths in the year to date; three classed as definitely avoidable (RCP1), three classed as strong evidence of avoidability (RCP2) and four classed as probably avoidable >50:50. The nine avoidable deaths constitute 4.4% of deaths.

In 21/22 there were a total of 223 deaths compared to 191 deaths in 19/20.

The total number of avoidable deaths during 21/22 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.

4. Conclusion

The trust complies with national guidance and populates the mortality dashboard. There is one avoidable death in Q2 as judged by the reviewer but needs ratifying after the next mortality review group meeting.

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

5. Recommendations

The Board of Directors is asked to note the dashboard data for Q2 22/23.