

AGENDA ITEM NO:

**UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL BIRMINGHAM NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2008**

Title:	CORE STANDARDS COMPLIANCE
Responsible Director:	Mike Sharon, Director of Planning and Performance
Contact:	Bob Hibberd, Head of Clinical Governance (Acting), Ext. 8555

Purpose:	To inform the Board of Governors of the assurance process and compliance with the Core Standards from 1 April 2007 to date and to invite the Board of Governors to comment on the Trust's 2007/08 declaration.
Confidentiality Level & Reason:	None
Medium Term Plan Ref:	Aim 2: Maintain reputation for performance and quality.
Key Issues Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence for Core Standards has been judged to be compliant for the period 1 April-31 December 2007 with no lapses.• No significant lapses have been identified during quarter 4 2007/08.• The Trust is proposing a declaration of full compliance for all 43 relevant Core Standards for 2007/08, subject to the Audit Committee's review of evidence for four Core Standards.
Recommendations:	<p>The Board of Governors is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Asked to RECEIVE the Trust's proposed declaration of compliance with the Core Standards for 2007/08, subject to review by the Audit Committee.2. INVITED to provide comments on the Trust's 2007/08 declaration.

Signed:	Date: 10 March 2008
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UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL BIRMINGHAM NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

BOARD OF GOVERNORS TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2008

CORE STANDARDS COMPLIANCE

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE

1. Introduction

The aim of this paper is to inform the Board of Governors of the assurance process and compliance with the Core Standards from 1 April 2007 to date. The Board of Governors is asked to receive the Trust's proposed declaration of compliance with the Core Standards for 2007/08 and is invited to provide comments on the Trust's performance in relation to Core Standards.

2. Key Dates

12pm, Wednesday 30 April 2008
Deadline for submission of Core Standards declarations to the Healthcare Commission.
Friday 16 May 2008
Deadline for trusts to make their declarations publicly available.

3. Internal Assurance Process and Star Chamber Review

As part of the quarterly review of evidence for Core Standards, Accountable Managers reviewed and updated their evidence commentaries and evidence links for quarter 3 (1 October - 31 December) 2007/08 in January 2008. Accountable Managers then looked forward to quarter 4 (1 January - 31 March) 2007/08 to identify any potential lapses in compliance: none were identified. Evidence for quarter 4 2007/08 will be updated during April 2008.

The Star Chamber meeting of Trust managers re-convened on 14 February 2008 to re-review and challenge the updated evidence reports for the seven Core Standards which were reviewed in October 2007 plus the evidence for C13a which was deemed to be strong:

C04a: Reduction of risk of infection

C04c: Decontamination of reusable equipment

C11b: Staff participate in mandatory training

C13a: Staff treat patients with dignity and respect

C15b: Patients' individual food needs met

C20b: Environment supports patients' privacy

C22b: Local Director of Public Health's report used to inform policies

C23: Disease prevention and health promotion

The Healthcare Commission (HCC) has advised that acute and specialist trusts do not have to declare against Core Standard C22b (use Local Director of Public Health's report to inform policies) for 2007/08. UHB will therefore make a declaration against 43 parts of the Core Standards for 2007/08 rather than 44 as in previous years.

The Star Chamber identified no issues with compliance. Suggestions were made to further improve the wording of some of the evidence commentaries and regarding additional supporting evidence. These amendments are currently being made and evidence has been requested from Accountable Managers and will be added into the Performance Accelerator system as soon as it is received.

The Head of Clinical Governance has met with the Executive Leads for each of the Core Standards to discuss the evidence reports which were reviewed by the Star Chamber and compliance with the rest of the standards. No issues with compliance were identified.

4. Statement on Compliance with the Hygiene Code

The Chief Nurse has proposed that the following commentary should be included in the Trust's declaration for 2007/08 in relation to the Hygiene Code:

'University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust recognises that the Health Act 2006 introduced a statutory duty on NHS organisations from 1 October 2006, to observe the provisions of the Code of Practice on Healthcare Associated Infections. As a result the Board has reviewed its arrangements and is assured that suitable systems and arrangements are in place to ensure that the code is being observed in this Trust, and that no significant lapses have been identified. The Trust therefore believes that it is fully compliant with the Health Act.

There are clear policies and escalation procedures for the management of HAI, which form part of the Infection Prevention and Control Plan for the Trust.

The Trust Action Plan makes clear reference to the Code of Practice and there are plans in place to maintain and continue to improve the performance within the Trust.

The Trust received an unannounced visit from the HCC on 13 June 2007 which found no material breaches of the Hygiene Code.'

5. Audit Committee Review

The Audit Committee will consider the overall assurance process for Core Standards and review the evidence reports for the following four Core Standards at its meeting on 13 March 2008: C04a; C11b; C13a and C20b. The Audit Committee will then recommend the level of compliance for the final declaration to the Board of Directors.

6. **Benchmarked Indicators**

Trusts are not required to make a declaration of their progress against developmental standards for 2007/2008. The HCC is due to issue a small number of benchmarked indicators to trust Chief Executives in early March 2008 to show their position relative to similar trusts.

These will be outcome focused and based on data from nationally available sources and should be used to support trusts' routine board assurance processes. The Clinical Governance Support Unit will review this information and produce an exception report as necessary. The Director of Planning and Performance will provide a verbal update to the Board of Governors should this information be received prior to the meeting.

7. **Proposed Declaration for 2007/08**

The Trust is proposing to declare full compliance with the 43 relevant parts of the Core Standards for the whole of 2007/08 as no 'significant lapses' in compliance have been identified. This may be subject to change following the Audit Committee's review of evidence for the four Core Standards detailed above at its meeting of 13 March 2008.

8. **Comments from Third Parties**

As in previous years, the Trust invites the Board of Governors to comment on its 2007/08 declaration of compliance with the Core Standards for Better Health. Comments will need to be received by **Friday 13 April 2008**.

The Trust has invited comments from other key third parties in relation to its 2007/08 declaration of compliance: South Birmingham PCT; University Hospital Birmingham Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forum and Birmingham City Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Trust will also be inviting comments from the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Birmingham City Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and University Hospital Birmingham PPI Forum have already provided their statements which are positive and are shown at Appendix A below.

9. **Recommendations**

The Board of Governors is:

- 9.1 Asked to **RECEIVE** the Trust's proposed declaration of compliance with the Core Standards for 2007/08, subject to review by the Audit Committee.
- 9.2 **INVITED** to provide comments on the Trust's 2007/08 declaration.