

The Queensland Health Patient Safety and Quality Executive Committee (PSQEC) met on June 9 2009. Key discussions and outcomes included:

Supervision of Medical Officers in Rural Facilities

In the past there has been some inconsistency in the process of appointment of rural SMOs.

The Office of Rural and Remote health have developed guidelines describing the appointment, credentialing and definition of scope of practice of senior medical staff in rural and remote settings, taking into account their experience, qualifications and skills.

Implementation of these guidelines will result in improved patient outcomes as they will help ensure only appropriately qualified and/or experienced practitioners are practicing unsupervised in rural areas.

These guidelines were endorsed by the Medical Advisory Panel in May.

The PSQEC approved these Guidelines.

For more information contact: Jill Newland, Director of Clinical Support ORRH.

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Incidents involving inconsistent readings by blood glucose meters

The PSQEC noted a report from a Health Service District describing blood glucose meters that have reportedly been producing inconsistent readings.

The District gained expert opinion and consensus statements about management were distributed across the District and the State by CASS.

Within the District, a formal mobile pathology machine (iStat), capable of diagnostic quality blood glucose testing was purchased and continues to be maintained with the Hospital Medical Emergency Team, now forming the basis of testing in a critical situation.

Further, a tender process was conducted for the replacement of point of care blood glucose testing devices for use within the Health Service District. This has resulted in replacement with machines

not susceptible to interference by other substances.

An education programme was subsequently implemented and finally, a formal quality assurance programme is co-ordinated by Pathology service.

For more information contact: PSQEC Secretariat at PSQB@health.qld.gov.au

Health Service Districts Top 5 Safety and Quality Priorities.

HSDs have provided details of their top 5 priorities in Safety and Quality for the purpose of informing future agendas of the PSQEC. Results have been collated and being returned to HSDs for validation.

These priorities will then drive the agenda of the PSQEC over the coming months.

For more information contact: PSQEC Secretariat at PSQB@health.qld.gov.au

Authority of PSQEC

Recent changes to the governance framework within Queensland Health have resulted in the ability of the PSQEC through the Chair to approve submissions which previously escalated to the Executive Management Team.

As a result the PSQEC Agenda Paper Template has been modified to elicit more information to align with that required previously by EMT.

Requests for approval of Policy must be accompanied by an Implementation Standard and subsequent Action Plan.

For more information contact: PSQEC Secretariat at PSQB@health.qld.gov.au

The next meeting is scheduled for 13 July 2009

For further information, please contact:

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