

The National Early Warning Score and associated Education Programme

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The National Early Warning Score Project is:

- A work stream of the Acute Medicine Programme in association with the Critical Care, Emergency Medicine and Elective Surgery Programmes
- Quality and Patient Safety
- ONMSD
- CIS
- Asst. National Director AHS, ISD,
- IADNAM
- Therapy Professionals

Early Warning Scores

“Early warning scores have been developed to facilitate early detection of deterioration by categorising the patient’s severity of illness and prompting nursing staff to request a medical review at specific trigger points utilising structured communication tools whilst following a definitive escalation plan”.

(Mitchell IA, McKay H, Van Leuvan C, et al. 2010)

The National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (UK 2005)

- Reported avoidable admissions to ICU's in 21% of cases
- Communication failures between teams contributed to delays in referrals and in delivering appropriate essential care, which contributed to increased morbidity and mortality
- In 11% of cases deficiencies in care might have contributed in death

The HSE should, as a priority, agree and implement a national early warning score to ensure that there is a system of care in place for the prompt identification and management of clinically deteriorating patients

(HIQA April 19th 2011)



- National Survey Results
- Professor Derek Bell UK 2009
'There is no justification for the continued use of multiple different (generic) early warning scores to assess illness severity'

In the Irish Context we need:

- Educated staff
- Improved team working
- Effective Communication



Action:

- National Lead identified
- National Early Warning Score Project - Governance and Advisory Group set up.
- Terms of Reference agreed:

The overall aim of the Project to develop one integrated solution for a national Early Warning Score (EWS) and associated education programme.

- Scope: Phase 1 - Adult patients in Acute Hospital Services

Progress to date:

- The Australian Compass Programme (2010) has been selected as the national tool for education on the deteriorating patient which incorporates a Modified Early Warning Score



compass

"Pointing you in the right direction"

This is an interdisciplinary education programme, (incorporating a modified early warning score) designed to enhance our understanding of patients' deteriorating and the significance of altered observations. It also seeks to improve communication between health care professionals and enhance timely management of patients

Permission was granted by ACT Health, Australia to use and modify to suit the Irish healthcare system

Amended by: Marie Horgan, Margaret Gleeson, Elizabeth Neely & Shauna Ennis.



Resources available on the Internet: hse.ie

- Compass Training Manual
- Interactive CD (Adobe Flash Player and Real Player)
- Quiz Questions (for return to co-ordinator in advance of face to face session)
- Power Point presentation (for face to face session), 4 sample case studies
- Train the Trainer Power Point presentation
- Implementation Guide for Acute Hospital sites
- Patient Observation Chart
- ISBAR Communication Tool
- Deteriorating Patient Management Flow Chart (A3 for display in wards/units)

A toolkit for Trainers

- Co-ordinators Guide
- Education Programme Equipment List
- Sample Evaluation form for programme
- Audit Tool – will be finalised shortly,

Guiding Framework and Policy for the National Early Warning Score System to Recognise and Respond to Clinical Deterioration due for sign off at senior level in the HSE shortly

Quick access for website

<http://www.hse.ie/go/nationalearlywarningscore/>

Thank You