

Being Open Guide - Consultation response form

Respondent information

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Please return this form by 15 August 2014 to: hcis.adverseevents@nhs.net

Consultation questions

1	<p>Do you have any generic comments on the paper?</p> <p>The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (“the College”) supports the overall aims of the paper and welcomes the proposal to provide guidance to all NHS Scotland staff to support openness around adverse events. We strongly support the stated aim in the background section of that paper that senior managers and Board Directors should ensure that the infrastructure is in place to support an open culture and the improvement of patient safety.</p> <p>The College agrees that a pilot project is sensible before implementing the principles more widely, and we would suggest a phased introduction of a national approach. However, since the principles set out in the paper are largely beyond dispute – openness, fairness, honesty, timeousness – it is hoped that the phased introduction could be rapid after a brief pilot.</p>
2	<p>Do you have comments on the principles identified to support implementation?</p> <p>The College is broadly supportive of the principles identified.</p>
3	<p>Do you have any comments on the actions for Boards?</p> <p>The College supports the proposal that the <i>Being Open</i> framework will be embedded in the Board’s risk management and clinical governance processes, and that staff are fully involved in this process to ensure organisation-wide “buy in”.</p> <p>It is vital that Boards use the data gathered on adverse events for quality improvement purposes, and can then demonstrate what lessons have been learned and improvements made following on from adverse events. “Learning the Lessons” can sometimes be more challenging than identifying them, and Boards should be encouraged to set markers at the outset to identify a successful change of practice, and let families know both of the intention as part of the communication, then follow up with results at a later date.</p>
4	<p>Do you have examples of good practice that we could consider to include in the document that would support bringing the principles ‘to life’?</p> <p>No particular comments.</p>