



The Regulation and
Quality Improvement
Authority

9th Floor Riverside Tower
5 Lanyon Place
Belfast
BT1 3BT

11 August 2009

To: Relevant Managers of Registered and Pre-registered Services

Dear Colleagues,

**FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND URGENT ACTION - INFLUENZA (A) H1N1
(SWINE FLU) - INFORMATION**

Please note the attached information regarding arrangements for a Pandemic Influenza. You should consider incorporation of the following information within any existing contingency plan or information package you have already established. In particular, please note the availability of training in Anaphylaxis which is being provided free of charge.

This message contains information regarding: -

1. Arrangements for Anaphylaxis Training by Beeches Management Centre
2. Questions and Answers following Service Continuity Planning Workshops
3. A Revised Communication Flow Diagram
4. The Continuity of Oxygen Supplies

Yours sincerely

John Black
Acting Director of Operations

informing and improving health and social care

1. Arrangements for Anaphylaxis Training by Beeches Management Centre
Arrangements for Anaphylaxis Training
by Beeches Management Centre
August and September 2009

NOTE: This Training is open to the Independent Sector and will be provided
FREE OF CHARGE.

DATE	VENUE	BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS AND TIMES
24 th August 25 th August 26 th August 27 th August 28 th August	<p align="center">(NOTE- TWO VENUES DURING AUGUST)</p> <p align="center"><i>Beeches Nursing and Midwifery Unit, Craigavon Hospital Site</i></p> <p align="center"><u>AND</u></p> <p align="center"><i>Beeches Nursing and Midwifery – Clady Villa, Knockbracken Healthcare Park Belfast</i></p>	<p align="center">ALL from 1.45 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.</p> <p align="center">Book on line at www.beeches.hscni.net</p>
3 rd September	<i>Beeches Nursing and Midwifery Unit, Craigavon Hospital Site</i>	As above
2 nd September 7 th September 16 th September 22 nd September 24 th September	<i>Beeches Nursing and Midwifery – Clady Villa, Knockbracken Healthcare Park Belfast</i>	As above
4 th September	Boardroom, Daisy hill Hospital Newry	As above
15 th September	Navan Room, Saint Luke's Hospital, Armagh	As above

17 th September	Gordon Thompson Suite, South Tyrone Hospital Dungannon	As above
----------------------------	--	-----------------

2. QUESTIONS EMANATING FROM SERVICE CONTINUITY PLANNING WORKSHOPS (JUNE/JULY 2009)

1.	<p><i>Can the Independent Sector access Trust Staff to compensate for falling numbers of Staff?</i></p> <p>Independent Sector Organisations should detail actions they plan to take to manage falling numbers of staff in their Business Continuity Plan. Utilisation of Independent Sector Organisations own staff/retired staff/volunteers/agency staff should be exhausted before approaching Trust for staffing support.</p>
2.	<p><i>What information should be communicated to carers/visitors?</i></p> <p>Guidance on information which can be shared with carers/visitors is available in the guidance: 'Nursing and Residential Home Guidance for Managing Swine Flu (H1N1)' (Version 3) – as issued at the Business Continuity Planning Workshops, information is also available from Public Health leaflets. Information is also available on the following Websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) – www.rqia.org.uk ● Health Protection Agency (HPA) – www.hpa.org.uk ● Department of Health Social Services & Public Safety (DHSSPS) – www.dhsspsni.gov.uk ● Public Health Agency (PHA) – www.publichealth.hscni.net
3.	<p><i>Will Agency Staff be able to access the Vaccination Programme?</i></p> <p>All staff who have direct contact with patients will have access to the vaccine. RQIA has been collecting information on staffing levels and any Organisation who has not responded to RQIA's request should do so as soon as possible. Vaccination is key to protecting staff, as well as at risk patient groups.</p>
4.	<p><i>Will the Independent Sector be able to access training from Trusts – e.g. Infection Control and Anaphylaxis Training?</i></p>

	<p>Trusts have opened up their training to Independent Sector Organisations.</p> <p>You can contact your Trust for more information as follows:</p> <p>WESTERN TRUST: John McGarvey – 02871 345171 <u>john.mcgarvey@westerntrust.hscni.net</u></p> <p>NORTHERN TRUST: Briege Donaghy – 02825 633718 <u>briege.donaghy@northerntrust.hscni.net</u></p> <p>BELFAST TRUST: Brian Barry – 02890 634377 <u>brian.barry@belfasttrust.hscni.net</u></p> <p>SOUTHERN TRUST: Geraldine Harvey – 07734 577851 <u>geraldine.harvey@southerntrust.hscni.net</u></p> <p>SOUTH EASTERN TRUST: Sarah Browne – 02892 665181 <u>sarah.browne@setrust.hscni.net</u></p> <p>An E-Learning Programme is also available and information on how to access this is available on the RQIA Website - <u>www.rgia.org.uk</u> – or from Kathy McLaughlin at the Beeches Management Centre (<u>kathy.mclaughlin@beeches.hscni.net</u>), telephone: 02890 644811.</p> <p>Further training will be available in September and information will be made available on this.</p>
5.	<p><i>Will there be payments for the Independent Sector if extra staff are required?</i></p> <p>Independent Sector Organisations need to record and monitor exceptional additional expenditure or loss of income associated with Pandemic Flu. Payment issues can be raised at the Independent Sector Flu Planning Group Meeting through Trust contacts.</p>
6.	<p><i>What about access to Vaccinations and PPE for Criminal Justice Hostels?</i></p> <p>Access to Vaccination and PPE for Criminal Justice Hostels is being addressed.</p>

7.	<p><i>When should relatives be involved?</i></p> <p>Each Independent Sector Organisation will need to decide when to involve relatives and this will be included in your Business Continuity Plan. If relatives are to be involved with patients/clients other than their own relative, they would be required to have a POCVA (Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults) check.</p>
8.	<p><i>Could a group get together to tease out Domiciliary Care Guidance?</i></p> <p>Action is being taken to review guidance and ensure appropriate guidance specifically tailored for Domiciliary Care Agencies is available by August 2009.</p>
9.	<p><i>If a facility closes, e.g. a Day Centre, how long does it stay closed?</i></p> <p>Decisions on re-opening facilities will be made following assessment of each situation and will be a joint decision between the Trust and Independent Sector Organisation.</p>
10.	<p><i>What is the minimum staffing level?</i></p> <p>Independent Sector Organisations will, as part of business continuity planning, carry out a risk assessment of the needs of their patients/clients and determine the minimum staffing level they can cope with to keep patients/clients and staff safe.</p>
11.	<p><i>What can relatives provide?</i></p> <p>Relatives can, depending on assessment by the Independent Sector Organisation and in some cases jointly with Trust staff, provide care for their own relative. To provide care for others, the person would have to have a POCVA (Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults) check.</p>
12.	<p><i>If staff take on duties of others, what training would staff need to be functioning at an accepted standard?</i></p> <p>Independent Sector Organisations will, as part of business continuity planning, identify what duties staff can carry out,</p>

	<p>assess training needs and provide support – supervision required.</p> <p>Guidance and information on training is available on the RQIA Website - www.rqia.org.uk</p>
13.	<p><i>Could there be a checklist for staff to use in an emergency situation, e.g. prompts around risk assessment and recognition of symptoms?</i></p> <p>Checklist is available in the guidance entitled: ‘Nursing and Residential Home Guidance for Managing Swine Flu (H1N1)’ (Version 3) – as issued at the Business Continuity Planning Workshops. Information is also available on the following websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) – www.rqia.org.uk ● Health Protection Agency (HPA) – www.hpa.org.uk ● Department of Health Social Services & Public Safety (DHSSPS) – www.dhsspsni.gov.uk ● Public Health Agency (PHA) – www.publichealth.hscni.net
14.	<p><i>Should we move towards local suppliers?</i></p> <p>Independent Sector Organisations, in developing their business continuity plans, need to consider this and it would involve checking with existing suppliers to see what plans they have in place to ensure you receive the supplies required.</p>
15.	<p><i>Will there be guidance on wearing uniforms for those who don’t currently wear uniforms?</i></p> <p>Guidance is available on the use of PPE and this is available on both the RQIA Website (www.rqia.org.uk) and the Public Health Agency Website (www.publichealth.hscni.net).</p>
16.	<p><i>Where would employers stand in terms of liability where volunteers and relatives are being used to provide care?</i></p> <p>Employers need to ensure relatives and volunteers have had a POCVA check and they also need to take advice from their own Human Resources Adviser on other Employer Liability issues.</p>

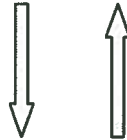
17.	<p><i>Can RQIA provide a database of Nurses who could help replace staff who are ill?</i></p> <p>RQIA cannot provide a database of Nurses who could replace staff. They could provide information on where to access Nursing Agencies.</p>
18.	<p><i>Can we have guidance on the difference between swine flu and ordinary flu?</i></p> <p>Information on signs and symptoms of Swine Flu are available in the guidance: 'Nursing and Residential Home Guidance for Managing Swine Flu (H1N1)' (Version 3) – as issued at the Business Continuity Planning Workshops. General Medical</p> <p>Practitioners are responsible for making the diagnosis. Guidance is also available on the following websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) – www.rqia.org.uk ● Health Protection Agency (HPA) – www.hpa.org.uk ● Department of Health Social Services & Public Safety (DHSSPS) – www.dhsspsni.gov.uk ● Public Health Agency (PHA) – www.publichealth.hscni.net
19.	<p><i>How will we know when staff are safe to return to work?</i></p> <p>Information is available on the RQIA Website (www.rqia.org.uk), where there is guidance and a leaflet on staff returning to work.</p>
20.	<p><i>Can staff have access to Anaphylaxis Training over the summer months?</i></p> <p>Yes – Training has been arranged, through Beeches Management Centre, at various venues, from 24th to 28th August. Dates have also now been added for September. This Training will be provided FREE OF CHARGE. Bookings can be made online – see the following website for all details:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.beeches.hscni.net</p>

<p>21.</p>	<p><i>Can we have guidance on disposal of Clinical Waste, especially for Domiciliary Care, District Nurses transporting Clinical Waste, disposal for Residential facilities?</i></p> <p>The guidance: 'Nursing and Residential Home Guidance for Managing Swine Flu (H1N1)' (Version 3) – as issued at the Business Continuity Planning Workshops – and the E-Learning Programme provide advise on Clinical Waste. Independent Sector Organisations, as part of business continuity planning, need to address the collection of waste with their current Service Provider. Councils are already engaged in developing their business continuity plans in respect of this issue.</p>
<p>22.</p>	<p><i>Can we have some clearer guidance about whether asymptomatic staff who have a symptomatic family member should stay off work or not and, if so, for how long?</i></p> <p>The Guidance is that asymptomatic staff should continue to go to work.</p>

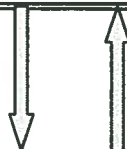
INFLUENZA OUTBREAK (A) H1N1 2009

COMMUNICATION FLOW – INDEPENDENT SECTOR

**Emergency Operations
Centre**



**NHSCT, SHSCT, WHSCT, SEHSCT &
BHSCT
PANDEMIC FLU GROUPS H1N1
Operational Plans / Actions / Issues**



<p><u>ROIA</u> Contact for guidance, information & training resources:-</p>	<p><u>Trust Community Flu Planning Groups</u> Contacts for information on contingency planning, support, training, Flucon Reporting and Personal Protective Equipment:</p>	<p><u>Northern Ireland Housing Executive</u> Contact for advice, support & guidance:-</p>
<p>Phelim Quinn Tel: 02890 517440 www.rqia.org.uk</p>	<p>Sarah Browne, South Eastern Trust , Tel: 02892 665181 www.setrust.hscni.net Brian Barry, Belfast Trust, Tel: 02890 634377 www.belfasttrust.hscni.net John McGarvey, Western Trust, Tel: 02871 345171 www.westerntrust.hscni.net Geraldine Harvey, Southern Trust, Tel: 07734 577851 www.southerntrust.hscni.net Briege Donaghy, Northern Trust Tel: 02825 633718 www.northerntrust.hscni.net</p>	<p>Colm McQuillan Tel: 02890 318409 www.nihe.gov.uk</p>



- 1. All Registered Establishments & Agencies located in each Trust area**
- 2. Independent Sector Representative Groups**
- 3. Housing Associations**

1. All Registered Establishments & Agencies includes: Nursing homes; Residential Care homes; Adult placements; Children’s homes; Independent clinics; Independent hospitals/hospices; Nursing agencies; Day Care settings; Domiciliary Care agencies; Residential family Centres & Adult Placement Agencies
2. Independent Sector Representative Groups include : Four Seasons; Southern Cross; IHCP & UKCA

4. Continuity of Oxygen Supplies

There may be increased demand for oxygen as the Pandemic develops. In order to maintain continuity of supply, those patients that might be suitable for a concentrator, as opposed to cylinder oxygen, should be reviewed in the coming weeks. Patients suitable for a concentrator should be on long term oxygen and requiring 14 - 15 cylinders per month.

They should also be on standard flow rates (2-4 l/min).

Any patient that meets these criteria should be referred for assessment by their GP.