



RQIA 'System Inspection' in Southern HSC Trust Area, 2023-24

Terms of Reference (21 September 2023)

This system inspection will:

- Assess the effectiveness of integrated working between the Trust and Service Providers registered with RQIA (including both independent and statutory) and between Acute and Community Services to address the issue of delayed discharges, within a local health system.
- Assess the level of shared responsibility and management of risk across a local provider system in respect of the issues of delayed discharges, with its known impact on patient outcomes
- Report on the perspectives of all relevant stakeholders including, General Practice, Service Providers registered with RQIA (including both independent and statutory), the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, Commissioners (the SPPG), Trust Clinical Staff and Trust Management.
- Validate the number and category of available community beds, and other service capacity indicators, within the Service Providers registered with RQIA (including both independent and statutory), within this locality, and the reasons for any underutilisation of capacity.
- Report on the experience of those patients who are delayed in their discharge and/or their relatives and the extent to which patient choice plays a part in effective discharge
- Identify any opportunities for improvement/optimisation of discharges from hospital.
- Publish a report of the findings including issuing of a Quality Improvement Plan or escalation under RQIA's enforcement and escalation procedures as appropriate.

This inspection is to be conducted in line with RQIA's powers under Article 40 and 41 and Article 35 (d) of the Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003.

This exercise will seek evidence of HSC bodies compliance with minimum quality standards as follows.

- *Quality Standards Theme 3 (5.3.1(a): Has effective person-centred assessment, care planning and review systems in place, which include risk assessment and risk management processes and appropriate interagency approaches;*
- *Quality Standards Theme 1 (h): Ensures effective systems are in place to discharge, monitor and report on its responsibilities in relation to delegated statutory functions and in relation to inter-agency working*