

## Recognising and responding appropriately to early signs of deterioration in hospitalised patients

# Checklist of reflective questions

The following checklist is taken from the National Patient Safety Agency's report, *Recognising and responding appropriately to early signs of deterioration in hospitalised patients* (November 2007) which is available at: [www.npsa.nhs.uk](http://www.npsa.nhs.uk)

The checklist is designed to support the local review of systems and processes for recognising and responding appropriately to early signs of deterioration in hospitalised patients.

### Communication and teamwork

- Do you think communication can be improved in relation to deteriorating patients?
- Have you considered introducing a communication tool (such as SBAR or RSVP; see Appendix 2)?
- Have you considered introducing multidisciplinary structured handovers?
- Have you considered introducing multidisciplinary team meetings?
- Are roles and responsibilities clear to all staff members in the team?
- Do you think your team would benefit from training to improve teamwork?

### Monitoring and escalation procedures

- Do patients have a clear, written monitoring plan that specifies which physiological observations should be recorded and how often?
- Are the monitoring plans being reviewed on a regular basis?
- Are you using physiological track and trigger systems to monitor all patients?
- Have you considered introducing colour-coded observation charts?
- Is the task of taking observations assigned to an appropriate person?
- Do you have systems in place (i.e. regular audits) for checking the quality and appropriateness of observations?
- Do staff need training in the recognition, assessment and management of acutely ill adult patients?
- Is the required equipment available on the ward?
- Do you have an 'Escalation Policy' or clinical response strategy in place?
- Do you have a policy in place for transferring patients to other departments?

## Management and workload

- Are you supporting colleagues in setting the right priorities for their workload?
- Are you encouraging colleagues to see observations as an important element of their work?
- Are you encouraging colleagues to seek advice more readily?
- Are you encouraging colleagues in taking ownership and responsibility for patients and their care?
- How are you making colleagues feel valued?
- Do you have a suitably experienced ward leader on every shift who maintains an overview of the wellbeing of all patients?
- Have you considered implementing iBleep (see Appendix 2)?
- Are staff aware that seemingly healthy patients are still at risk of deterioration?
- Are staff aware of policies?
- Do staff understand the process of undertaking a root cause analysis?
- Are changes being implemented following investigations?