
Trust Public Board 21 February 2008

Self Certification – January Sign-Off

Report by: David McNeil, Director of Corporate Affairs

Purpose

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust is one of a number of Trust reporting monthly to the NHS East of England (the SHA).

The SHA, in line with Monitor requirements for Foundation Trusts, expects Boards to receive the Governance and Financial Monitoring returns at the Trust Board meeting and to sign off the returns.

Board accountability is clearly reflected throughout the monitoring arrangements. The SHA will continue to use the data from the national returns for consistency checking and validation purposes to ensure that the Trust reporting processes are robust.

The benefits of adopting the self-certification Monitor style approach are as follows;

- It is a core element of the Monitor regime and closely following this regime as an aspirant FT will assist us in the transition to Monitor regulation
- It will encourage the Board to concentrate efforts on the standards that Monitor will focus on in their governance assessment
- It should allow the early identification of performance concerns, encouraging appropriate escalation and actions to improve performance
- It will incentivise the Trust to contact the SHA at an early stage to highlight concerns and the actions underway to address the matter.
- Early identification, notification and action are key Monitor expectations

Recommendation

The board are asked to sign-off the completed Governance Risk Rating and Financial Risk Rating templates for January 2008.

David McNeil
Director of Corporate Affairs
21 February 2008