

**Report of the IRGC Meeting on 10 May 2012 to the WHHT Board on 31 May 2012**

By Mahdi Hasan, Chair IR&GC

**Introduction**

Good progress is reported on the development and maturity of the Divisional Risk Registers which form the foundation for the Board Assurance Framework and deliberations at the IRGC. This allows enhancing the BAF input to the Board for greater clarity, transparency and a focus on key risks. The evolving concept will be presented at the 31 May Board meeting.

**Board Assurance Framework**

The BAF, in its updated format, is attached to the Board papers. The BAF has been updated with reported progress on various items. The relative position of key risks and the risk ratings remain largely unchanged and the IRGC considered the quality and adequacy of mitigation.

The dialogue in the IRGC and the its coordination with the Audit Committee leads to a satisfactory focus by the Executive Team and of the internal audit programme which ensures that the oversight is appropriate to the Trust's risk profile.

A new format has been devised for the summary report to represent more graphically the Trust's risk profile. This will be presented to the Board for adoption on 31 May 2012 and thereafter will provide a summary report based on review of the BAF at the IRGC meeting preceding the Board.

Progress and feedback on various BAF items is satisfactory. Noteworthy is the ongoing management of asbestos removal. This is being handled satisfactorily but considerable work remains and appropriate focus and mitigation needs to be maintained. The IRGC reverted NHSLA Level 2, Deanery Compliance and Maternity Never Events & Theatre reviews as line matters as appropriate mitigation actions are considered to be in place.

The Executive is pursuing further action to ensure that the structure and resource to ensure robust risk understanding and its mitigation exists or is achieved within the Estates Division. This aspect was further highlighted by the Internal Audit findings. This is an item of some significance due to the challenge of managing a difficult Estates situation and its potential impact on clinical services, hospital operations or an unexpected financial demand.

**Risk added to the BAF**

A new risk added to the BAF, following discussion at the IRGC, relates to insufficient bed capacity at Watford General Hospital and its impact on delivering a satisfactory service in surgery. While the risk manifests itself as cancelled operations, its mitigation has complex strands related to delayed discharge, longer than necessary stays in ICU, effectiveness of preparing discharge notes and beds and space issues. The Chief Operating Officer and Divisional Director of Surgery are the risk owners and mitigation actions will be followed at the IRGC until necessary.