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Iechyd Cyhoeddus
Cymru
Public Health
Wales

Name of Meeting
Quality, Safety and
Improvement Committee
Date of Meeting
15 February 2023
6.1

Quarter 3 Alerts Report (1 Oct 2022 - 31 Dec 2022)

Executive lead:	Rhiannon Beaumont-Wood, Executive Director, Quality, Safety and Allied Health Professionals Directorate.
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Approval/Scrutiny route:	Rhiannon Beaumont-Wood, Executive Director, Quality, Safety and Allied Health Professionals Directorate.
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Purpose

This exception report provides an update on the management of alerts received by Public Health Wales

Recommendation:

ASSURANCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONSIDER <input type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMEND <input type="checkbox"/>	ADOPT <input type="checkbox"/>	NOTE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee is asked to:

- Receive **assurance and note** that an effective management system for distribution, monitoring and record keeping for alerts / safety notices received

Link to Public Health Wales [Strategic Plan](#)

Public Health Wales has an agreed strategic plan, which has identified seven strategic priorities.

This report contributes to the following: **Contributes to all priorities**

Strategic Priority	5 - Protecting the public from infection and environmental threats to health
Strategic Priority	6 - Supporting the development of a sustainable health and care system focused on prevention and early intervention
Strategic Priority	7 - Building and mobilising knowledge and skills to improve health and well-being across Wales

Summary impact analysis

Equality and Health Impact Assessment	An assessment is not necessary as no decision is required.
Risk and Assurance	Public Health Wales is required to implement and maintain systems to manage and disseminate safety alerts, important public health messages and other safety critical information to ensure appropriate actions are taken.
Health and Care Standards	This report supports and/or takes into account the Health and Care Standards for NHS Wales Quality Themes Theme 2 - Safe Care Theme 3 - Effective Care Theme 5 - Timely Care
Financial implications	None
People implications	None

1. Purpose / situation

The purpose of the report is to provide assurance that Public Health Wales has an effective system for the distribution, management, monitoring and appropriate record keeping of Safety alerts / safety notices. The reporting of Alerts is by exception.

2. Background

Safety notices provide instructions to NHS bodies to prevent risks that may cause harm. As such Public Health Wales (PHW) is required to ensure that all safety alerts and notices are communicated promptly to the relevant members of staff employed within the organisation to act upon. Although in most cases, the alerts received are not applicable to Public Health Wales, we must be able to demonstrate that Alerts have been reviewed, and where appropriate acted upon, within the designated timescales and confirmed status assigned to each alert to safeguard service users, staff and visitors from harm.

3. Description/Assessment

A total of **47** Alerts were received by Public Health Wales during the reporting period 1 October – 31 December 2022, of which **19** required further action.

This is an increase in the number of Alerts requiring actions during this quarter compared to previous months. The increase is attributable to notification relating to the winter period and in particular Covid-19.

The majority of alerts received were disseminated within 48 hours of receipt as required by the Alerts policy and procedure.

Four alerts however exceeded the 48 hours response time and this was due to the availability of the key contact within Health Protection who had changed roles. All four alerts were Covid19 related, specifically relating to hospital on-set Covid19 and anti-virals for non-hospitalised Covid19 patients. Whilst these Alerts did exceed the 48 hour response timeframe for circulation, it was confirmed by the Health Protection contact that these Alerts had been received by members of staff within Health Protection due to the nature of their role.

The alerts were subsequently acted upon and within that same week. As a result of this delay an alternative point of contact has been identified.

Table 1. Total Alerts received

Type of Alert	Number received	Number requiring action (Covid 19)	Number requiring action (other)	Comments
Pharmaceutical Alert	19	5	2	<p>A number related to Pharmaceutical recalls due to defects / errors and incorrect information on packaging of medication.</p> <p>A number related to medication recalls due to the medication performing outside of specification and one which could lead to an increased risk of cancer.</p> <p>The remaining related to recently approved medications for the treatment of patients experiencing Covid19.</p>
Medical Device Alert	0	0	0	
Medical Device(Information)	0	0	0	
Patient Safety Notice/Alert	1	0	1	This related to Safety information pertaining to the increased sterility of a brand of ultrasound gel.
Medicine Shortages	16	0	3	<p>These notices related to depleting stock levels/unavailability of medicines and the anticipated period of time.</p> <p>The remaining related to Medications that would enhance diagnostic scans, and the treatment for bacterial infection (including TB) and diabetes</p>
Estates and Facilities Alert	0	0	0	
High Voltage Alert	3	0	0	Notifications of a faulty equipment including a Brand of transformer and a switchbox failure that resulted in a fire.
Public Health Alert	8	5	3	<p>These included a cold weather planning alert and antiviral medication alerts including winter vaccinations.</p> <p>1 notice was for Ebola outbreak outside of the UK along with our communicable disease outbreak plan.</p>
Totals	47	10	9	

Table 2. Alerts by Division

Type of Alert	Number received	Number requiring action (Covid 19)	Number requiring action (other)	Comments
Health and Wellbeing	0	0	0	
Knowledge	1	0	1	
WHO Collaborating	0	0	0	
QNAHPs	0	0	0	
Operations & Finance	0	0	0	
People & OD	0	0	0	
Improvement Cymru	0	0	0	
NHS Wales Collaborative	0	0	0	
Screening	5	1	4	
Micro/Health Protection	13	9	4	One alert was deemed not relevant after sharing with lead contact .
Estates	0	0	0	
Not Applicable	28	0	0	Not applicable after corporate review.
Totals	47	10	9	

3.1 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Not applicable as no decision is required.

4. Recommendation

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