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Iechyd Cyhoeddus  
Cymru  
Public Health  
Wales

**Name of Meeting**  
Quality, Safety and  
Improvement Committee  
**Date of Meeting**  
16 May 2023  
**Agenda item:**  
7.2

## Quarter 4 Alerts Report (1 Jan 2023 - 31 Mar 2023)

<b>Executive lead:</b>	Rhiannon Beaumont-Wood, Executive Director, Quality, Safety and Allied Health Professionals Directorate.
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<b>Author:</b>	Frankie Thomas, Head of Putting Things Right
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<b>Approval/Scrutiny route:</b>	Business Executive Team
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### Purpose

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

### Recommendation:

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

- Take **assurance** on the effective management system for the distribution, management, monitoring and appropriate record keeping of Safety alerts / safety notices received by the organisation

**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**

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

**Summary impact analysis**

<b>Equality and Health Impact Assessment</b>	An assessment is not necessary as no decision is required.
<b>Risk and Assurance</b>	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.
<b>Health and Care Standards</b>	This report supports and/or takes into account the <a href="#">Health and Care Standards for NHS Wales</a> Quality Themes  Theme 2 - Safe Care Theme 3 - Effective Care Theme 5 - Timely Care
<b>Financial implications</b>	None
<b>People implications</b>	None

## **1. Purpose / situation**

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

## **2. Background**

Public Health Wales is required to ensure that all safety alerts are communicated promptly to all relevant members of staff employed within the Trust. Although in most cases, alerts received are not applicable to Public Health Wales, we must be able to satisfy ourselves that we have reviewed them, checked and confirmed the status of each alert, and where appropriate ensure that alerts are acted on in a timely manner, within the designated timescales to safeguard service users, staff and visitors from harm.

## **3. Description/Assessment**

A total of **66** alerts were received by Public Health Wales during the reporting period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, **24** of which required action to be taken.

58% of our applicable alerts received within this quarter were for Estates in relation to High Voltage Hazards, in relation to a faulty substation.

We did not experience any delays in sharing relevant alerts wider in this quarter and adhered to the timescale urgencies outlines by the Welsh Government.

**Table 1. Total Alerts received**

Type of Alert	Number received	Number requiring action (Covid 19)	Number requiring action (other)	Comments
Pharmaceutical Alert	20	1	1	We received notice of enhanced genome sequencing for hospitalised patients with Covid19 arriving from China.  Additionally, we were made aware of potential microbiological contamination of two solutions.
Medical Device Alert	1	0	0	An ocular device was sent to screening for review, but it was deemed not relevant for Public Health Wales.
Medical Device(Information)	0	0	0	
Patient Safety Notice/Alert	6	0	2	We were made aware of an issue with increased pressure with a brand of ocular devices.  An outbreak of pseudomonas aeruginosa was identified across 10 hospital trusts across the rest of the UK.
Medicine Shortages	22	0	3	We were made aware of shortages for a brand of penicillin, a drug involved in cancer treatment and a drug involved in the treatment of ocular issues.
Estates and Facilities Alert	1	0	1	An assistance call alarm within an accessible toilet had been inappropriately isolated, resulting in the individual being unable to activate the call for assistance.
High Voltage Alert	14	0	0	While most of these alerts highlighted a faulty substation, we were also made aware of a dangerous transformer and circuit breaker. None of these were relevant to Public Health Wales.
Public Health Alert	2	0	2	We received updated notice for cold weather planning, identical to the alert we received in Q3 2022.
Totals	66	1	23	

**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	0	0	0	
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	0	5	We received two medicine shortages related to various cancer treatments.  There were updated alerts for the cold weather warnings.  We also received note of increased pressure from some ocular lenses.
Micro/Health Protection	6	1	3	Three alert was deemed not relevant after sharing.
Estates	1	0	1	One alert received regarding the emergency switch in the accessible toilet.
Not Applicable	54	0	0	Not applicable after corporate review.
Totals	66	1	23	

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

Not applicable as no decision is required.

### 4. Recommendation

The Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee is asked to:

- Take **assurance** on the effective management system for the distribution, management, monitoring and appropriate record keeping of Safety alerts / safety notices received by the organisation