Terms of Reference

This will be an ‘enquiry’ visit to follow up concerns raised by medical staff working at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre, Gartnavel General Hospital, Glasgow.

Introduction

On 20 May 2015, a large number of Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre staff signed a letter to the General Medical Council (GMC), describing a number of potentially serious risks to patient safety at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre. The GMC passed the letter to Healthcare Improvement Scotland.

In order to ensure patient safety is not being compromised, Healthcare Improvement Scotland will undertake an enquiry visit to follow up these concerns and assess the evidence base for the concerns raised, including the governance arrangements. The visit team will also assess the arrangements put in place by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde since the letter was written, such as the 4 bed higher acuity ward and supporting protocols.

It is acknowledged that the GMC will be assessing issues raised in the letter regarding medical trainee support and the training environment at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre as part of an ongoing review.

Remit

The concerns expressed in the consultants’ letter have been summarised below.

By the end of week 29 May 2015, the reconfiguration of services (as a result of the opening of the South Glasgow University Hospital) will remove acute medical support services from the Beatson Cancer Centre. The signatories of the letter believe that this reconfiguration poses significant risks to patient safety due to the following issues:

- lack of a High Dependency Unit (HDU) affecting ability to deliver level 2 care
- inappropriate anaesthetic cover, and
- compromised out of hours care.

The signatories of the letter described that the concerns have arisen despite ‘strenuous and repeated efforts to engage constructively with medical management’.

| The purpose of this visit is to follow up on these concerns and to assess any potential impact/implication on the quality and safety of care for patients. Should any additional concerns arise through the visit, they will be considered by the visit team. |

Method

A team with external and independent experience, knowledge and skills will be established to represent Healthcare Improvement Scotland.

The team will aim to speak with a range of staff members working in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and specifically the Beatson Cancer Centre to follow up on the concerns listed above. Further documentation may be requested to support the findings of this visit from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde as well as other organisations to form a better understanding of the background and context to these concerns. Where significant concerns
are identified, it will be important that they are rigorously, systematically and independently followed up by the appropriate agencies.

The visit will take place on 28 July 2015 and will consist of:

- pre-arranged meetings with named individuals (to be determined)
- sessions of invited staff groups, and
- informal drop-in sessions for staff.

It is expected the meetings will include relevant consultants, key leads, senior and middle managers, medical staff, critical care staff, nurses (including specialist nursing staff) and trainees.

We are providing an opportunity for any member of staff from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to provide us with feedback about the Beatson West of Scotland Centre through a dedicated confidential email box in advance of the visit. All views expressed will be treated anonymously unless individuals express a view otherwise. The team is interested in all views about the current service, which includes areas of strength, and areas where there is room for improvement.

Healthcare Improvement Scotland will ask NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to circulate pre-visit information to staff outlining the purpose of the visit.

**Reporting**
Following the visit, a short report will be compiled detailing the findings as agreed by the visit team members. This report will help to form a decision on the next steps. For example, this may include a further, more detailed review or whether the visit team recommends that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde puts in place or follows an appropriate action plan.

The findings and the decision on the next steps will be presented to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and will be made publicly available on the Healthcare Improvement Scotland website.

If it is determined that a further review is required, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde will be notified as soon as possible.

**Visit team membership**
Robbie Pearson, Director of Scrutiny and Assurance, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, will lead the visit with clinical advice and support from:

- Dr Tim Cooksley, Consultant in Acute Medicine, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust
- Dr Cathy Hughes, Consultant Nurse Gynaecology/Oncology, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
- Dr Mike Jones, Acute Physician, University Hospital of North Durham
- Professor Alistair McLellan, Postgraduate Dean, NHS Education for Scotland
- Mark Aggleton, Senior Programme Manager, Healthcare Improvement Scotland
- Leanne Hamilton, Programme Manager, Healthcare Improvement Scotland
- Edel Sheridan, Project Officer, Healthcare Improvement Scotland

**Timescales**
We will aim to share our findings with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde as soon as possible after the visit.