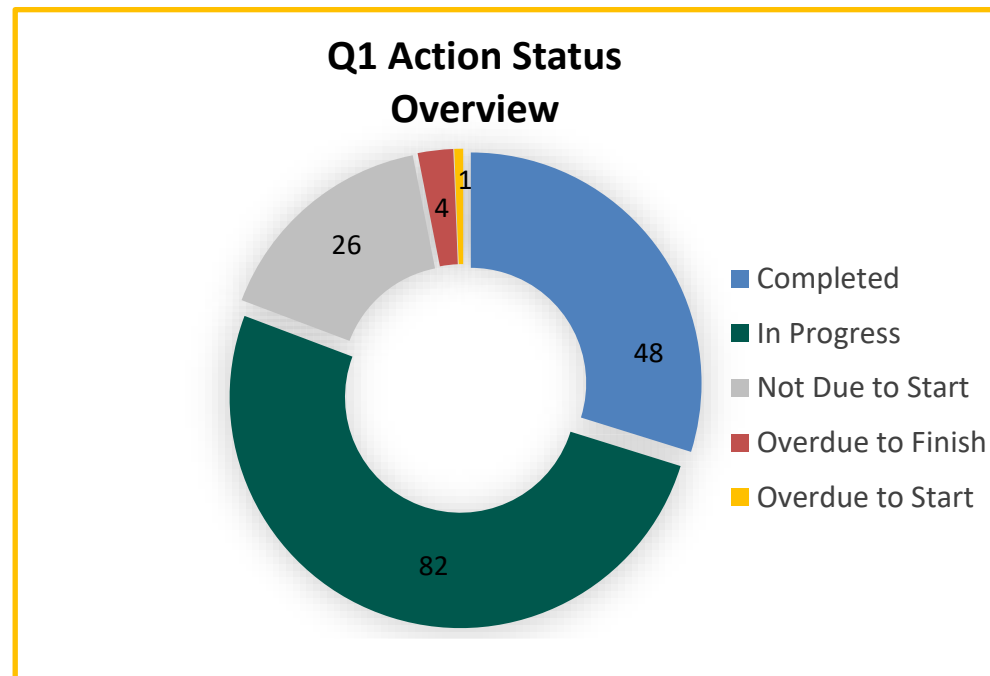


Implementation of the Recommendations of the Report of the Scoping Inquiry Progress Report Summary, Q1 2019

Following publication of the report of the Scoping Inquiry into Cervical Check in September 2018, a comprehensive Implementation Plan was developed to support all 56 recommendations made by Dr Gabriel Scally in his report. The process was overseen by the CervicalCheck Steering Committee and the plan was approved by Government on 11 December 2018. The Minister committed to publishing progress reports against the recommendations on a quarterly basis in order to provide details of the work which is underway across the health system to implement all recommendations.

Overall summary position as at end of Q1 2019.

As of the end of Q1 2019, there were 161 actions arising from the 56 recommendations. 48 of these actions were completed and 82 actions were in progress. A breakdown of the status of actions is detailed below.



Q1 2019 Progress Report by recommendation theme

Method of Approach

Work has commenced within the Department of Health on updating relevant protocols to assist with efficient document management. Work is underway to identify improvements and to scope requirements. The Department has met with document management system providers as part of this work.

The Chief Clinical Officer (CCO) has commissioned a review of the HSE Healthcare Records Management Policy, a working group has been established to progress the review which is being led by the Quality Improvement Division. Further actions in relation to the management of non healthcare records/documents in the HSE are under development. In addition, an audit of access to healthcare records by patients to measure compliance with best practice has also commenced.

The National Screening Services (NSS) client services team which was put in place during 2018 to assist patients wishing to access their healthcare records in publicly funded hospitals has been maintained and continues to provide support to patients in accessing their records.

Listening to the Voices of the Women and Families Affected

The Department of Health held a Department-wide working session to examine potential internal changes or improvements that could be made in order to ensure a more consistent, expert and committed approach to women's health issues. This working session took place on 13 February in the Department of Health. An options paper is currently being prepared for presentation to the Department's Management Board in Q2.

The working group developing the Women's Health Action Plan, comprising of members from the Department of Health, HSE and NWCI, met on 26 February, to review the draft initial outcome of the scoping exercise undertaken and to agree next steps in the development of the Action Plan. The final report of the scoping exercise on the development of a Women's Health Action Plan is currently being finalised and work is underway to set out a work programme for 2019, which will include a template for wider consultation.

Cervical Check – Management and Governance

A organisational governance review was commenced within the NSS and an implementation plan with recommendations has been completed. The implementation plan is awaiting the approval of senior management prior to its adoption across the NSS. The HSE has maintained the current reporting line of the Interim National Director in the National Screening Service reporting directly to the HSE Director General.

A new Quality Safety & Risk Committee with an independent chairperson was established in the NSS in October 2018 and it continues to meet every 2 months. A Quality, Safety & Risk Manager has also been appointed to National Screening Services.

A new Clinical Director for the Cervical Check Programme has been appointed in addition to a new National Laboratory Quality Assurance Lead. A Director of Public Health for the NSS has also been appointed.

HSE Governance Bill

The PAS campaign for the recruitment of Board members has now concluded. The prospective members of the Board have met and have begun preparation for the formal establishment of the Board.

Public Health Expertise

Following the publication of the Crowe Horwath Report on the Role, Training and Career Structures of Public Health Physicians in Ireland in December, an Implementation Oversight Group has now been established to oversee the implementation of a new model of public health medicine. This Group, which will be led by the Department of Health, includes representation from across the HSE, including from the National Cancer Control Programme and the National Screening Programme. It also includes representation from HIQA, the National Cancer Registry, the Institute of Public Health in Ireland, the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and academia.

Work is progressing on the workplan for the Implementation Oversight Group, with finalisation intended for Q2. Agreement of future governance and organisational structures for public health medical services will begin in Q2, with implementation of these structures to begin in Q4.

National Screening Committee

The Deputy Chief Medical Officer in the Department of Health attended the UK National Screening Committee (NSC) in London on 27 February 2019 attended by England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Discussions were held with members of the UK NSC in terms of informing the proposed service specification and membership of an Irish National Screening Committee.

A proposed operational model for the National Screening Committee is in preparation, which will require consultation with the future chair and other stakeholders. This work includes cross referencing and aligning with work in relation to a proposal for developing an evidence hub.

The job specification for the Chair of the National Screening Committee went live on 5 April, with an expressions of interest process for membership of the Committee to commence in Q2. It is intended that the inaugural meeting of the Committee will be held in Q3.

Risk Management

The CCO has issued correspondence to all Community Healthcare Organisations Chief Officers and Hospital Group CEO's in relation to key risk management practices to be implemented in addition to commissioning an organisational review of risk management structures.

The NSS has completed a review of its governance and risk management structures and will implement these revised incident and risk management structures and processes.

Cervical Check Laboratory Services

A National Laboratory Quality Assurance Lead has been appointed. Progress is continuing in relation to developing improvements in programme standards, quality assurance and the implementation of a single agreed terminology for recording results.

Work is on-going in the NSS to adopt a policy for accreditation for programme standards. The National Lab QA Lead is reviewing ISO 15189 and CAP 15189 to identify any gaps in standards and a new specification manual which laboratories are to comply with has been developed.

The NSS has developed, tested and validated cervical screening report specifications in order to obtain comparable data excluding samples taken from colposcopy and will publish all performance statistics on samples taken in primary care or equivalent.

The Director of Public Health in the NSS is establishing a quality improvement project across all programmes in order to adopt a formal quality assurance risk management approach.

The NSS has collated data for the next annual report (for 2018) on all categories broken down by providers. A review of the data is currently taking place prior to its publication.

Procurement of Laboratory Services

The HSE has updated its National Financial Records Management Policy (NFR08) as relevant to procurement in relation to retention of records. Discussions are ongoing in relation to incorporating NSS Procurement into the HSE National Health Business Services (HBS) Procurement. A sourcing strategy for laboratory services inclusive of a market engagement soundings exercise has been developed and this will be implemented in the shortest timeframe possible.

A Periodic Indicative Notice (PIN) to the OJEU (Official Journal of the European Union) putting the market on notice of the HSE's intention to procure a suitably qualified laboratory provider to provide HPV primary screening and secondary screening by way of liquid based cytology has been published. This notice is however, not a call for competition. A Contract Notice will issue in due course to commence the procurement process.

The HSE has engaged a procurement process auditor, to ensure that procurement processes are conducted in compliance with national and EU regulations. The procurement process auditor will also confirm that the relevant recommendations of the Scally Report are incorporated into the procurement strategy and contract terms and conditions.

The screening contract award criteria for any future contracts is under consideration, the procurement evaluation group (PEG) and market engagement exercise will assist in informing the most appropriate quality to cost ratios.

Auditing Cervical Screening

An expert group has been established within National Screening Service to review clinical audit processes for interval cancers across all screening programmes. The group has agreed a terms of reference and has met a number of times to date with work progressing. The group is inclusive of 2 patient advocates.

Open Disclosure

The General Scheme of the Patient Safety Bill approved by Government in July 2018, underwent pre-legislative scrutiny at the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health on 26 September 2018. The Report from the Oireachtas Health Committee was issued on 7 December 2019 with nine recommendations. The Minister responded to all recommendations on the 21 March 2019. Meetings have also been held with HIQA, the HSE, the Mental Health Commission and the SCA in relation to the progression of the Bill.

The Office of the Parliamentary Counsel to the Government and the Department will oversee the introduction of the Patient Safety Bill. The Government Chief Whip published the new Legislation Programme (following the focus on Brexit), in which the Patient Safety Bill as one of the priority legislation for publication in the Summer Session 2019. After publication the Bill will be progressed to the Houses of the Oireachtas for the final stages of the legislative process.

The Minister approved the terms of reference and proposed membership for the new Independent Patient Safety Council. A process is underway to appoint the chair and hold the first meeting of the Council. When established, the immediate priority of the Council will be to undertake a review of open disclosure policies, informed by international best practice and research with a view to standardising and optimising the process of open disclosure to enhance the patient experience and maximise the opportunities for system-wide learning. The Independent Patient Safety Council will include strong patient and public representation and international patient safety expertise.

Consultation on the interim revision of the HSE Open Disclosure Policy incorporating recommendations from the Scally Report, the Assisted Decision Making Act and the Civil Liabilities Act 2018 has taken place inclusive of consultation with representatives from the 221+ group. Once the revised interim policy has been approved, it will be communicated and implemented throughout the system pending a more detailed review during 2019, which will follow the outcome of the work which will be undertaken by the Patient Safety Council. The interim revised policy has incorporated the inclusion of independent patient advocates in a decision not to disclose where a patient has experienced serious harm.

The revised policy will be implemented through the development of a comprehensive training programme and revised guidance documentation which is currently underway to reflect policy changes. To strengthen guidance and support for staff in screening programmes on the implementation of open disclosure, the HSE has engaged the RCPI to develop a screening education programme outlining the benefits and limitations of screening.

The HSE has established an integrated forum of experts to scope out a communications and open disclosure skills training programme. A national clinical lead has been appointed to chair this group. The revision and enhancement of the Open Disclosure training programme across the system is in progress.

A National Open Disclosure office has been established in order to provide support and leadership for the organisation on the implementation of the principles of Open Disclosure and the evaluation of same. KPI's will be developed and piloted during 2019 for implementation as part of the 2020 service plan in order to strengthen governance for Open Disclosure at a system level. A national Open Disclosure Committee is also currently being established.

Cancer Registration

A working group has been established between the HSE and the National Cancer Registry of Ireland (NCRI) to collaborate on the common recommendations in the Scally report and will meet monthly during 2019.

The NCRI has now signed a data sharing agreement with the HSE and Memoranda of Understanding to be used in data sharing agreements with other institutes are under review by the Data Protection Officer in the NCRI.

Key NCRI posts have been sanctioned and recruitment is underway. The development and population of an Electronic Data Use Register is underway and preparations for the tendering for a data architecture system blueprint have begun.

The Department of Health has re-run the recent recruitment campaign for membership of the NCRI Board. Two candidates with the relevant competencies to support data sharing and patient safety have been identified and appointed to the Board.

Discussions with the International Agency for Research on Cancer in relation to the conduct of annual peer reviews are underway.

Other Screening Programmes

In order for the NSS to advance its thinking on cross programme learning, external QA and governance oversight, it has developed a project improvement plan for all quality assurance programmes based on international best practice.

All CervicalCheck job descriptions have been reviewed by HSE HR to ensure job descriptions are in place for all roles. The formal induction process for all new staff in the NSS has been reviewed and updated. Induction training will take place on a monthly basis.

To strengthen guidance and support for staff in screening programmes on the implementation of open disclosure, the HSE has engaged the RCPI to develop a screening education programme outlining the benefits and limitations of screening.

Resolution

The 221+ Patient Support Group has met with the RCPI, the RCSI and GPs in January 2019, and with the Medical Council in March 2019. There will be continued liaison with the colleges on a number of items to progress mediation with consultants and relevant personnel.