An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

# Independent Patient Safety Council (IPSC)

## Minutes of Meeting 10 – Draft

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| **Date** | 3pm to 5pm, Tuesday 8th April 2025 |
| **Location** | Hosted by the Department of Health, Miesian Plaza, Dublin 2 via MS teams |
| **Chair** | Ms Noeline Blackwell (NB) |
| **Members in Attendance** | Ms Angela Fitzgerald, Executive Officer, Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) (AF)<br>Prof Eva Doherty, Director of the Human Factors and Patient Safety training, RCSI (ED)<br>Dr Suzette Woodward, Patient Safety Specialist, Visiting Professor, Imperial College London (SW)<br>Dr Cathal O'Keeffe, Head of Clinical Risk, State Claims Agency (SCA) (COK)<br>Mr Brian Fitzgerald, CEO, St Vincent's Private Hospital (BF)<br>Ms Georgina Cruise, National Manager, Patient Advocacy Service (GC)<br>Ms Brigid Doherty, Patient representative (BD)<br>Ms Niamh Muldoon, CEO/Registrar of the Veterinary Council of Ireland (NM)<br>Dr Orla Healy, National Clinical Director for Quality and Patient Safety, HSE (OH) (until 4PM)<br>Mr Martin O'Halloran, former CEO, Health and Safety Authority (MOH)<br>Ms Peggy Maguire, Director General of the European Institute of Women's Health (PM) |
| **Apologies** | Mr Tiberius Pereira, Patients for patient safety (TP)<br>Prof Charles Normand, Emeritus Professor at the University of Dublin, Trinity College (CN) |
| **In attendance** | Mr Maurice O'Donnell, Principal Officer, Patient Safety and Advocacy Policy, NPSO (MOD)<br>Ms. Róisín Cunniffe, Assistant Principal Officer, Patient Safety and Advocacy Policy, NPSO (RC) (Secretary)<br>Ms Eimear Quinn, Administrative Officer, Patient Safety and Advocacy Policy, NPSO (EQ)<br>Mr. Ciarán Cullen, Assistant Principal Officer, Patient Safety and Advocacy Policy, NPSO, (CC)<br>Ms Clare Delargy, Assistant Principal Officer, Sláintecare, DoH (CD) [only item 2] |

**Welcome, introductions and apologies.**

The Chair welcomed all the members to the 10th meeting of the Independent Patient Safety Council (IPSC) which was held via Microsoft Teams.

Apologies were noted for Prof Charles Normand and Mr Tiberius Pereira.

NB checked there were no conflict of interest from any member or attendee, and this was confirmed.

**1. Approval of minutes and agenda, date for next meeting**

The agenda was agreed. The chair took the minutes of meeting 9 as being read and the minutes were approved and adopted (proposed BD, seconded NM). The Chair suggested agreement on the next meeting would be reserved for AOB at the end of the meeting.

**Action 1:** Publish approved minutes.

**2. Sláintecare presentation- HSE Regionalisation**

A presentation was provided to Council from Ms Clare Delargy, Assistant Principal Officer, Sláintecare, regarding the status of the ongoing restructuring [regionalisation] of the HSE.

Council members had a number of questions regarding the process of regionalisation, in particular relating to the hierarchy of the new structures, preserving what works well in the current structures and how consistency across the regions will be assured.

**Action 2:** Sláintecare Presentation to be circulated to Council following the meeting.

**3. Incident management framework review-Advisory group IPSC nomination**

Council was circulated with a request regarding nomination to the HSE incident management framework review advisory group, one expression of interest was received from the Council for appointment to this group. This nomination was agreed with the chair. Dr Eva Doherty was appointed to the group, as the IPSC nomination. She attended the first meeting of the group and provided update to Council on this meeting**.**

**Action 3:** Dr Eva Doherty appointed to the advisory group.

**4. Incident management framework review workshop**

MOD delivered a presentation on the review of the HSE Incident Management Framework, followed by a group discussion on the following questions:

1) What are the challenges with the current IMF?
2) What are the opportunities for improvement?
3) Who needs to be involved to drive these improvements?
4) If a wider survey was to be issued to gather views on how the current IMF impacts patients and families and how it could be improved, what existing networks and channels could best reach this audience?

A substantial discussion was hard by Council on the questions above and the review of the IMF in general. A summary paper detailing these discussions is to be put together and circulated to council following the meeting.

**Action 4:** Workshop discussion summary paper to be drafted by NPSO and circulated to council.

## 5. Update on Policy Framework for Open Disclosure in healthcare: Implementation

MOD updated council members on the ongoing implementation of the National Open Disclosure Framework which provides a unified and consistent approach to open disclosure right across the health sector. Relevant stakeholders are required to report their progress on the implementation of the Framework on an annual basis, and the reporting window for 2025 closed at the start of April 2025.

## 6. Patient Safety Act (2023): Update

MOD provided a brief update on the Patient Safety (Notifiable Incidents and Open Disclosure) Act 2023 which was enacted in May 2023. The Act was commenced on 26 September 2024 (other than Section 68). Prior to commencement of the Act, there were a number of preparatory steps required. As outlined above, the Act establishes a mandatory requirement for the notification of certain serious patient safety incidents. To facilitate this notification process, a new module to the existing National Incident Management System (NIMS) has been designed, built, tested and signed-off by key stakeholders, including the HSE, State Claims Agency, HIQA and the Mental Health Commission. In addition, to facilitate commencement of the Act, the HSE developed a new open disclosure training policy and communications plan for all staff regarding the new disclosure and notification requirements under the Act. This new open disclosure training module is now available to all staff.

The following additional updates with regard to the Act were provided to Council;

- Work on amendment to Section 68 is ongoing. Section 68 provides that a new Section be inserted into the Health Act 2007 to provide the Chief Inspector with a discretionary power to carry out or commission an independent review of a defined type of a serious patient safety incident where some or all of the care of a patient was carried out in a nursing home. Amendment is required to ensure that both public and private nursing homes are covered.
- With respect to the new NIMS module, as of 31 January 2025:
    - 140 registered users (portal)
    - 58 NIs reported (51 NIMS Core)
    - HIQA/Chief Inspector/MHC have all been notified (54 for HIQA)

## 7. Council Membership Vacancies

It was noted that progress had been made with regard to the filling of vacancies on the Council particularly in respect of patient representation but there was still one potential place to be filled by a patient representative. Council members were asked to consider any contacts they may have in this regard and pass them on to the secretariat.

**Action 5:** Council members to forward suggestions and NPSO to progress.

**8. AOB and Close**

The Chair suggested that the Council meet again, once or twice later in the year. It was suggested and agreed that one of these meetings be held in person.

**Action 6**: Next meeting to be scheduled.

The Chair thanked all for their contribution and closed the meeting at 5pm.
**No other matters were raised.**

**Table of Actions in Progress – 27 June 2024**

| | Action | Responsible | Date assigned | Due date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Action 1:** Publish approved minutes. | Chair, RC | June 2024 | July 2024 | Complete |
| | **Action 2:** Sláintecare Presentation to be circulated to Council. | RC | June 2024 | July 2024 | Complete |
| | **Action 3:** NPSO to engage with Council regarding nomination to the health regions advisory group. | Council, NPSO | June 2024 | Q3 2024 | Complete |
| | **Action 4**: Secretariat to share Council's Ways of Working with HSE. | RC, NPSO | June 2024 | July 2024 | Ongoing |
| | **Action 5**: Results of draw to be circulated to Council. | RC, NPSO | June 2024 | July 2024 | Complete |
| | **Action 6:** Council members to forward suggestions and NPSO to progress. | Council, NPSO | June 2024 | Q3/Q4 2024 | Complete |
| | **Action 7;** NPSO to correct annual report and membership Bios on updating website. | RC, NPSO | June 2024 | Q3 2024 | Complete |
| | **Action 8:** Council will be updated on the complaints and incidents policy work at the next meeting. | RC, NPSO | June 2024 | Q3/Q4 2024 | Ongoing |
| | **Action 9:** Next meeting to be scheduled. | RC, Chair | June 2024 | Q3/Q4 2024 | Complete |

**Table of Actions in Progress – 8 April 2025**

| | Action | Responsible | Date assigned | Due date | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Action 1:** Publish approved minutes. | Chair, RC | April 2025 | May 2025 | Ongoing |
| | **Action 2:** Sláintecare Presentation to be circulated to Council. | RC | April 2025 | May 2025 | Complete |
| | **Action 3:** NPSO to engage with Council regarding nomination to the IMF review advisory group | Council, NPSO | April 2025 | April 2025 | Complete |
| | **Action 4:** Workshop discussion summary paper to be drafted by NPSO and circulated to council. | Council, NPSO | April 2025 | April 2025 | Complete |
| | **Action 5:** Council members to forward suggestions and NPSO to progress. | RC, NPSO | April 2025 | Q3/Q4 2025 | Ongoing |
| | **Action 6:** Next meeting to be scheduled. | RC, Chair | April 2025 | Q3/Q4 2025 | Ongoing |