

<b>Trust Board (Public)</b>	<b>Item: Covid-19 Nosocomial Infections</b>
<b>Date: November 2021</b>	<b>Enclosure: E</b>
<b>Purpose of the Report: To provide assurance that the actions required by the Trust have been completed.</b>	
<b>For: Information</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Assurance</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Discussion and input</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Decision/approval</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
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<b>Risk Implications – Link to Assurance Framework or Corporate Risk Register:</b>	
<b>Legal / Regulatory / Reputation Implications:</b>	
<b>Link to Relevant CQC Domain:</b> <b>Safe</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Effective</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Caring</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Responsive</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Well Led</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Link to Relevant Strategic Theme:</b>	
<b>Document Previously Considered By:</b>	
<b>Recommendations:</b>  Report for noting.	

## **Duty of Candour and Learning from Nosocomial COVID-19**

The NHS Learning from Deaths Framework and the Serious Incident Framework exists to support NHS organisations to learn from incidents relating to patients.

NHS trusts were advised by NHSE and by the SWL Integrated Care System (ICS) to follow the Duty of Candour (DoC) processes already in place across Trusts in response to the learning from hospital-onset COVID-19.

Trust Boards were asked to support this recommendation and it agreed with the South West London (SWL) Consortium, that Duty of Candour letters would be sent to the next of kin of those who died following Nosocomial COVID-19 infection as follows:

### **It was recommended that Trusts:**

- Complete one incident form to cover the nosocomial infections from COVID-19 for cases for hospital onset hospital acquired (HOHA) in \*wave 2 in the first instance, followed by the definite HOHA from wave 1
- Send a Duty of Candour letter to the next of kin for all patients who died 'Of' or 'With' hospital onset hospital acquired (HOHA) COVID-19.
- Implement a hotline to provide families with a point of contact following receipt of the letter. This would run for a four-week period and be managed by the Trust's Patient Advice and Liaison Service, bereavement and complaints team, who are trained and familiar with supporting bereaved families.

\*wave 2: 01 October 2020 to 31 August 2021

### **Trust actions and feedback:**

- DoC letters were sent on the 8 October 2021 to the next of kin of 54 patients who we know died following a COVID-19 infection that was definitely hospital acquired.
- A further 10 DoC letters were sent on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 to the NOK's of patients who had contract a HOHA Covid-19 during the 1<sup>st</sup> wave of the pandemic.
- Neither of these letter distributions resulted in any calls to the hotline, this is largely related to the fact the DoC conversations happened at the time of next of kin being informed that the patient was Covid-19 positive.

### **Notes and next steps:**

- The Trust is currently working with SWL colleagues to agree a process for those patients who died with a hospital onset probably hospital acquired infection (HOPHA) during wave 1 and 2.
- The classification of HOPHA patients in wave 1 is particularly challenging, as the classifications only came into effect from July 2020 and routine swabbing was not nationally agreed during the first wave.