

SAFETY THERMOMETER - Quick User Guide

Relevant

The NHS Safety Thermometer is a local improvement tool for measuring, monitoring and analysing patient harms and “harm-free” care. It is one element of this year’s national Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) programme and will result in additional money from the PCT.

By the end of December 2012 we must be in a position to collect data from all in-patients on a fixed day every month. We have chosen to conduct our audits on the morning of the second Tuesday in every month. This audit looks at four specific harms: Patient fall, Pressure ulcer, VTE, Catheter associated urinary tract infection.

The audit must include a review of the patients’ records and a physical assessment of the patients. If the patient refuses to take part, please note this on the audit sheet. Please make sure that **all** the boxes are completed – if not the data for that patient cannot be used. The following is a prompt for conducting the audit:

Pressure ulcers

- “new” means within 72 hours of admission
- Grading needs to be the **worst** category of the pressure sore
- If the patient was admitted with a pressure sore, which has worsened during their admission you should records this as new

Patient Falls

- Any fall within the previous 72 hours should be recorded
- **Severe harm** means permanent harm such as brain damage or disability

Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection

- Treatment for UTI is based on the records, clinical judgement and patient feedback
- You must **exclude supra-pubic catheters**, but count any other indwelling catheter that was in place in the previous 72 hours

Venous Thromboembolism

- There are 3 elements; risk assessment, prophylaxis and clinical treatment of an existing DVT or PE