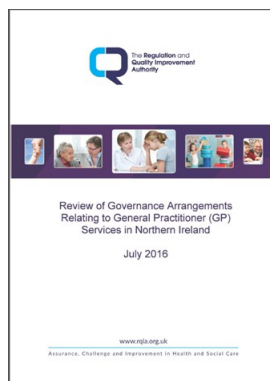


Find Out More

You can read the full report of our findings and recommendations for improvement on our website, or by clicking on the image of the report



Review of Governance Arrangements Relating to General Practitioner Services in Northern Ireland, July 2016



Our reviews are undertaken as part of RQIA's Three Year Review Programme 2015-2018. Read more about the areas we are reviewing by visiting our website or by clicking on this image.



As part of RQIA's Three Year Review Programme 2015-18, RQIA undertook a review of the current governance arrangements and processes in place, to assure that services delivered by general practitioners (GPs) in Northern Ireland are safe, effective and compassionate.

RQIA examined the emerging issues in general practice that may impact on the safety and effectiveness of services, and sought the views and experiences of GPs to inform the review.

RQIA also considered the role of the regulator in other areas of the UK to assess the future role for RQIA in quality improvement within GP services.

The review made nine recommendations for improvement.

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Methodology

- RQIA's review team met with the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) to obtain their views and experiences of current arrangements and emerging issues for GP services in Northern Ireland.
- We also met with GPs through engagement with the 17 Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs).
- We considered information provided by commissioners, which included the Health and Social Care (HSC) Board, through the completion of self-assessment questionnaires.
- We met with staff and senior managers from the HSC Board.
- Finally, we presented the findings from the review and the recommendations in a public report, which is now available on our website www.rqia.org.uk

Findings

RQIA's review team made nine recommendations for improvement to support continued assurance in primary care medical services (general practitioners).

These focused on:

- Arrangements should be put in place to coordinate and take forward quality improvement in primary care
- A more streamlined process for serious adverse incidents (SAIs) involving primary care.
- The delivery plan for Transforming Your Care (December 2011) should ensure that the shift of emphasis from secondary care to primary care is properly resourced and does not result in excessive workloads for GPs.
- The HSC Board should encourage and develop wider skill mix options in general practice to offer continuity to care and to ensure the best outcomes for patients.
- Clarity around responsibilities for meeting the training needs of GPs undergoing a remediation process.
- Where further quality assurance systems are required to be developed in general practice, a collective approach should be employed, including RQIA as the systems regulator.