

24 October 2014

To all foundation trust medical and nursing directors

Dear colleague

Please provide information by 5pm on Friday 31 October 2014 on implementing the 'Responsible consultant/clinician' and 'named nurse' in your trust

You will recall that one of the recommendations of the Francis Report and the government's response ('Hard Truths', published last November) was that every hospital patient should have the name of the consultant and nurse responsible for their care above their bed: the 'responsible consultant/clinician' and 'named nurse'.

The Department of Health has asked Monitor to provide an update on the implementation of this recommendation by foundation trusts **by 5pm on Friday, 31 October 2014. Please provide your trust's update by this date by completing the information on [this link](#).**

This letter is addressed to both Medical and Nursing Directors because we recognise the importance of this as a shared responsibility. We would however be very grateful if you could provide **one** response on behalf of your organisation.

You may be aware that the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges published guidance in June this year in support of the recommendation, entitled '[Taking Responsibility: Accountable Clinicians and Informed Patients](#)'. The guidance focuses on two key elements which trusts must deliver:

- a patient's entire stay in hospital should be co-ordinated and caring, effective and efficient with an individual named clinician – the **responsible consultant/clinician** – taking overall responsibility for their care while retaining the principles of multi-disciplinary team working
- ensuring that every patient knows who the **responsible consultant/clinician** with this overall responsibility for their care is, and also who is directly available to provide information about their care – the **named nurse**

We are acutely aware of the pressures on your time and apologise for the urgency of the request. We thank you in advance for your support in responding by 5pm on 31 October 2014. If you have any queries please email medical.director@monitor.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

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