

NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group

Operational Executive – 21 August 2020

AQUA – 1 September 2020

Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body – 7 October 2020

Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) Annual Assurance Process for 2020-21

Lead Executive:	Chris Edwards, Chief Officer
Lead Officer:	Ruth Nutbrown, Assistant Chief Officer Alison Hague, Corporate Services Manager
Lead GP:	Dr Jason Page, GP Lead

Purpose:

To inform Governing Body of the annual assurance process for NHS England for EPRR.

Background:

NHS England annual assurance process for EPRR was released on the 20th August with a submission date to NHSE by 31st October 2020.

Analysis of key issues and of risks

The requirements for this year are outlined in the letter from NHSE attached as appendix 1.

The requirement is:

Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) are asked to submit a statement of assurance to the relevant NHS England and NHS Improvement regional head of EPRR by 31 October 2020.

This statement should include:

- 1) the updated assurance position of any organisations that were rated partially or non-compliant in 2019/20 (this may include the CCG itself).
- 2) assurance that all the relevant commissioners and providers of NHS-funded care have undertaken a thorough and systematic review of their response to the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a plan is in place to embed learning into practice
- 3) confirmation that any key learning identified as part of this process is actively informing wider winter preparedness activities for your system.

NHS Rotherham CCG submission is appended to this report.

Usually the return requires sign off by organisations through the Governance process. This year there is no requirement for the submission to get sign off by the organisation through the Governance process.

Patient, Public and Stakeholder Involvement:

NA

Equality Impact:

NA

Financial Implications:

NA

Human Resource Implications:

NA

Procurement Advice:

NA

Data Protection Impact Assessment

NA

Approval history:

NA

Recommendations:

Governing Body is asked to:

- Note the requirements of the annual assurance process and note the submission made to NHSE&I.

Paper is for Approval

Publications approval reference: 001559

To: NHS Accountable Emergency Officers
NHS England and NHS Improvement:
Regional Directors
Regional Heads of EPRR
Regional Directors of Performance and Improvement
Regional Directors of Performance

NHS England and NHS Improvement
Skipton House
80 London Road
SE1 6LH

20 August 2020

Dear colleague

Emergency preparedness, resilience and response (EPRR) annual assurance process and winter planning for 2020/21

We would like to thank you and your team for your outstanding leadership and support during these exceptional times and for the care delivered to patients. Our collective focus over recent years to improve and embed good robust, evidence-based and tested EPRR practice across the NHS has undoubtedly contributed to the system-wide response to COVID-19.

The events of 2020 have tested all NHS organisation plans to a degree above and beyond that routinely achievable through exercises or assurance processes. However, our statutory requirement to formally assure ourselves of EPRR readiness in our own organisation and the wider NHS remains.

We recognise that the detailed and granular process of previous years would be excessive while we prepare for a potential further wave of COVID-19, as well as upcoming seasonal pressures and the operational demands of restoring services. This letter sets out the amended process for 2020/21 which will focus on three areas:

- 1) progress made by organisations that were reported as partially or non-compliant in the 2019/20 process
- 2) the process of capturing and embedding the learning from the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic
- 3) inclusion of progress and learning in winter planning preparations.

1. Progress of partially or non-compliant organisations

Organisations that were rated partially or non-compliant in the 2019/20 process will have undertaken a great deal of work through their action plans to address gaps. Much of this will have been carried out ahead of the COVID-19 pandemic which began in the UK in January 2020. The 2020/21 process seeks to understand their improved status.

2. The identification and application of learning from the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic

The comprehensive and extensive response to the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic has provided all health organisations with a unique opportunity to identify and embed lessons into EPRR practice. The 2020/21 process seeks to ensure that all NHS organisations have begun the process to systematically and comprehensively identify, learn and embed lessons to improve EPRR practice.

3. Incorporating progress and learning into winter planning arrangements

As in previous years there is also a wider programme of winter planning and assurance. This work will draw on existing processes, including this one, to supplement assurance conversations. The 2020/21 process seeks to ensure this learning is embedded in winter preparedness.

Action to take/next steps

All NHS organisations will already be undertaking reviews of their response to the first wave of COVID-19 and embedding learning into arrangements ahead of any possible second wave.

Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs)¹ are asked to submit a statement of assurance to the relevant NHS England and NHS Improvement regional head of EPRR by 31 October 2020.

This statement should include:

- 1) the updated assurance position of any organisations that were rated partially or non-compliant in 2019/20 (this may include the CCG itself)
- 2) assurance that all the relevant commissioners and providers of NHS-funded care have undertaken a thorough and systematic review of their response to the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a plan is in place to embed learning into practice
- 3) confirmation that any key learning identified as part of this process is actively informing wider winter preparedness activities for your system.

Our regional head of EPRR will undertake structured conversations with CCGs as necessary to better understand their statements.

Our regions will submit their statement of assurance to the director of EPRR (national) by 31 December 2020.

This statement should include the same elements as the CCGs: an update on the 2019/20 partially or non-compliant organisations and the identification and embedding of learning through an appropriate process.

¹ CCGs hold local statutory functions. However, in many parts of the country CCGs have come together to operate as sustainability and transformation partnerships (STPs) or integrated care systems (ICSs). Where this is the case, the term CCG should also be read as STP or ICS. Local reporting for this process will be agreed with your regional head of EPRR.

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Our national EPRR team will undertake conversations with each region in advance of preparing a national statement of assurance for the NHS England and NHS Improvement board and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

The annual EPRR assurance process traditionally places local health resilience partnerships (LHRPs) in a central role for local leadership. Given the planning nature of LHRPs and the current response position of the NHS, it is not considered appropriate for LHRPs to lead the assurance this year. We expect that LHRPs will maintain a critical role in future EPRR assurance processes, and outputs from the 2020/21 process will be shared with LHRP co-chairs at the appropriate time.

Summary

You are asked to ensure you have undertaken a comprehensive and thorough review of learning from the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, that you have a process to convert the learning into practice and those partially or non-compliant organisations in the 2019/20 assurance process report their updated compliance rating (using the 2019/20 assurance criteria).

Please note the following deadlines:

- 31 October 2020: statements of assurance are made to regional EPRR teams by CCGs
- 31 December 2020: regional EPRR teams submit their statement of assurance to the national EPRR team
- 28 February 2021: national EPRR team to have completed conversations with regional teams
- 31 March 2021: national EPRR assurance reported to the NHS England and NHS Improvement board and DHSC.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Stephen Groves or your regional head of EPRR.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Groves

Director of EPRR (National)

Daniel De Rozarieux

**National Director of Elective and
Emergency care and Operations
and Performance**

cc NHS England and NHS Improvement Business Continuity team
CCG Accountable Officers
CCG Clinical Leads
CSU Managing Directors
Clara Swinson, Director General for Global and Public Health, DHSC
Emma Reed, Director, Emergency Preparedness and Health Protection Policy
Global and Public Health Group, Department of Health and Social Care
LHRP co-chairs

From: [EDWARDS, Christopher \(NHS ROTHERHAM CCG\)](#)
To: [YORKSHIRE-EPRR, England \(NHS ENGLAND & NHS IMPROVEMENT - X24\)](#)
Cc: [HAGUE, Alison \(NHS ROTHERHAM CCG\)](#); [NUTBROWN, Ruth \(NHS ROTHERHAM CCG\)](#)
Subject: FW: EPRR Core Standards Response Email
Date: 03 September 2020 13:27:42
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image004.png](#)

Please see NHS Rotherham CCG response to our EPRR Core Standards compliance.

All organisations (both providers and commissioners) are asked to complete the attached template/confirm your response to the following via email:

1. That where relevant your EPRR assurance action plans have been reviewed in order to improve your level of compliance against the 2019/2020 EPRR Assurance Core Standards, and where you have previously reported partial or non-compliance as your overall assurance rating that you provide an updated assurance level following review and delivery of your ongoing action plans.

NHS Rotherham CCG was rated fully compliant on the 2019/20 submission and remains fully compliant in 2020/21.

2. That you have undertaken, or plan to undertake, a formal review process on your response to the COVID-19 pandemic to date, and have associated plans to ensure that the lessons and recommendations from that review are embedded as part of your ongoing EPRR work programme, and

A review has commenced on NHS Rotherham CCG response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

3. That you have reviewed your response to the COVID-19 pandemic and taken steps to embed key lessons and actions in your planning for winter and associated system response arrangements

NHS Rotherham CCG are accelerating the return to near-normal levels of non-Covid health services, making full use of the capacity available in the “window of opportunity” between now and winter. Preparation for winter demand pressures, alongside continuing preparing for further probable Covid spikes locally takes account of lessons from the first Covid peak; locks in beneficial changes; and explicitly tackles fundamental challenges including: support for our staff, and action on inequalities and prevention.

Alison

Alison Hague

Corporate Services Manager

Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group

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Please note from the 26th September 2018 my email address will change to alisonhague@nhs.net

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