

Stakeholder survey

Section 1 – Strategic and functional areas

The following list identifies the main areas of work for the Authority. We would appreciate it if you could take some time to share your views on what, in your opinion, are the key projects the Authority should focus on under each of the headings. Please feel free to use additional space if required.

(A)
Set standards in health and social care settings

The Irish Medical Organisation (IMO) supports the role of HIQA in setting standards of care in health and social care settings. Quality and safety standards in healthcare in Ireland should be evidence-based and reflect international best practice.

The *Leas Cross Report* highlighted the vulnerability of patients in residential care settings and the IMO supports the continued work of HIQA in setting and improving standards in social care settings for the elderly, children and people with disabilities.

As Government Policy supports the care of elderly people at home through the Home Care Package Scheme, the IMO recommend that HIQA develop National Quality Standards for the Home Care Package Scheme, equivalent to those outlined in the *National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People*.

(B)
Monitor healthcare services

All healthcare services whether public, voluntary not-for-profit or private should be monitored and held to the same high standards. Services purchased by the National Treatment Purchase Fund should also be monitored for compliance to health and safety standards.

HIQA should pursue the mandatory accumulation and publication of outcomes data from all hospitals in order to identify gaps in quality of care.

(C)
Register and inspect social care services for vulnerable people (i.e. children, older people and people with disabilities)

The regular and systematic inspection by the Social Services Inspectorate of residential care facilities for children, older people and people with disabilities is vital to ensure adherence to the agreed standards.

The IMO is concerned that HIQA must be adequately funded to carry out inspections, investigations and impose penalties for poor standards or HIQA risks becoming ineffective as a body.

<p>(D) Develop initiatives for improvements in patient safety</p>	<p>HIQA should investigate hospitals which are over overcrowded with an emphasis on ensuring that safety standards in Accident and Emergency do not slip during periods of overcrowding.</p>
<p>(E) Drive improvements in health information and information technologies for high quality, safer, care</p>	<p>Two information technology projects should be prioritised in 2010.</p> <p>Following the recommendations of the <i>Leas Cross Report</i> and the <i>HIQA National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People</i>, the IMO urges the prompt roll out of the Minimum Data Set at a national basis to provide a modern responsive and sensitive measure of older people's needs in the community and nursing homes.</p> <p>The IMO also calls for the earliest introduction of proven electronic healthcare records across the primary and secondary care domains that are capable of enabling quality shared care, together with a process of unique patient and provider identification based on the PPS Number. The PPS Number is already widely used throughout the health system and is the obvious candidate for a Unique Health Identifier and would facilitate the rapid implementation of the system. While there are infrastructural issues with the PPS Number in its current form, an enhanced PPS Number complies with the selection criteria outlined in <i>HIQA's Recommendations for a Unique Health Identifier for Individuals in Ireland</i>. Any national system for identifying patients, whether using the PPS Number or a new UHI is open to abuse and will require comprehensive security and access controls as well as strict regulation regarding its use. Many jurisdictions successfully use a common national number for health records and for access to other government services for example, Belgium, the Netherlands and the Scandinavian countries.</p>
<p>(F) Informing decision-making by evaluating the clinical and cost effectiveness of health treatments and technologies</p>	<p>In the current economic climate, evaluating the clinical and cost effectiveness of health treatments and technologies is vital to ensure a modern, quality healthcare system that provides value for money. HIQA should explore avenues of collaboration with other EU members to avoid unnecessary duplication of assessment of health treatments and technologies.</p>
<p>(G) Develop initiatives to build capacity and capability in the health and social care system</p>	<p>HIQA should develop in-house capacity and capability in the health sector to analyse, interpret and use available health related data on an everyday basis in the pursuit of quality care.</p>

Section 2 – General comment

Following on from Section 1, do you think there are areas or projects where the Authority can improve its work? Please comment, providing as much detail as possible, in the space provided below.

Thank you for taking part. Your input is greatly appreciated.