

Metro North Hospital and Health Service Independent Governance Review: Caboolture Hospital Surgery

Terms of Reference

Background

On 30 August 2021, the Courier Mail Brisbane published a story received from an alleged whistle-blower. The story detailed preventable deaths, negligent surgeries and bullying at the Caboolture Hospital within Metro North Hospital and Health Service (**Metro North Health**).

Metro North Health Clinical Governance, Safety, Quality and Risk team has established a dedicated hotline managed by experienced Clinical Nurse Consultants for anyone who has concerns and wishes to discuss their treatment. Patient safety is Metro North Health's highest priority and all patient feedback is taken seriously. The hotline will be independently managed by the Metro North Health Clinical Governance, Safety, Quality and Risk Unit.

Purpose

The purpose of this review is to provide an independent review and subsequent assessment of the clinical governance framework(s) and quality and safety performance of current Surgical Services provided at the Caboolture Hospital. The Metro North Clinical Governance, Safety, Quality and Risk (MN CGSQR) unit will facilitate and co-ordinate this independent review.

The review team will:

- Review the allegations of unsatisfactory surgical outcomes at the Caboolture Hospital.
- Undertake an assessment of the current patient selection criteria and review of the scope of practice of surgery undertaken at Caboolture Hospital against the current approved Queensland Health and Metro North Health Clinical services capability framework (CSCF) for the Caboolture Hospital.
- Review and assess the current surgical medical staff credentialing process and current surgeons approved scope of practice compared with their qualifications.
- Examine Hospital Acquired Complications (HACs) including surgical infection rates and other infection or surgical outcome data collected by the hospital of patients who have undergone surgery at the Caboolture Hospital from 2020 to present.
- Undertake a comprehensive review and analysis of surgical incidents from 2020 to present.
- Undertake a comprehensive review and analysis of previous HEAPS and RCA recommendations of surgical cases at the Caboolture Hospital from 2020 to present.
- Review the Caboolture Hospital's perioperative mortality and morbidity data since 2020 to present and benchmark this data with like services.
- Assess the current data reporting capability and review ongoing system of monitoring of safety and quality indicators and KPI's for the Surgical Services department at the Caboolture Hospital.

Objectives

Through a detailed clinical governance analysis and review of the current service / practices this review will provide recommendations which focus on ensuring positive patient outcomes and inform ongoing service delivery for the Caboolture Hospital.

This review will commence on 13 September 2021 and a report providing findings and recommendations will be submitted to the Board Chair of Metro North Health by 11 October 2021.

Requirement to Immediately Report 'Notifiable Conduct'

The review team will immediately notify the Executive Director, Metro North Clinical Governance, Safety, Quality and Risk if, during the course of the review, a reasonable belief may be formed that any individual registered with a National Board may have engaged in 'notifiable conduct' as that term is defined within the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Queensland)* under section 140.

Membership

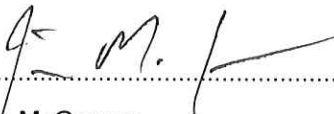
The membership of the review team will include:

- Independent Colorectal and General Surgeon;
- Independent Perioperative Nurse;
- An individual with clinical governance experience;
- A Consumer; and
- An additional independent subject matter expert (if deemed necessary by the review team).

The Executive Director, Metro North Clinical Governance, Safety, Quality and Risk, and the Executive Director's team, will offer support to the review team in conducting their investigatory role – where such support is requested by the review team.

Endorsement

These terms of reference are approved by:



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James McGowan
Board Chair
Metro North Hospital and Health Service
Date: 9 / 09 / 2021