



Guideline: Care of deteriorating patients

Scope – Version no.2

Date: 24/01/2022

1 Guideline title

Care of Deteriorating Patients

2 The need for a guideline

In June 2012, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing set new aims for acute adult healthcare in NHS Scotland. These aims included a commitment to reduce death rates and to keep patients safe from avoidable harm.

In 2014, The Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) published consensus recommendations to underpin a national approach to the care of deteriorating adult patients. These recommendations set out the essential elements for prompt and reliable recognition of deteriorating patients, based on the National Early Warning Score (NEWS)¹.

There have since been significant developments in the processes of care for deteriorating patients within both primary and secondary healthcare settings. This document aims to provide updated guidance for best practice, based on current evidence, expert opinion and lived experience.

3 Remit of the guideline

3.1 POPULATION

3.1.1 GROUPS THAT WILL BE COVERED

- Deteriorating adult patients within hospital settings
- Deteriorating adult patients within community healthcare settings

3.1.2 GROUPS THAT WILL NOT BE COVERED

- Children under 16 years

3.2 HEALTHCARE SETTING

- Hospitals
- Community Healthcare Settings

3.3 CLINICAL MANAGEMENT

This document aims to provide updated recommendations to guide NHS Scotland boards, hospitals, primary healthcare settings and healthcare professionals in the development of local systems that will deliver reliable recognition and response to deteriorating patients in their care.

4 Target users of the guideline

This guideline will be of interest to healthcare professionals involved in the care of deteriorating adult patients; the families of deteriorating adult patients; and service commissioners.

Reference

1. The Royal College of Physicians: The National Early Warning Score (NEWS2) Threshold and Triggers. 2017

Available at:

<https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/national-early-warning-score-news-2>.

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