

National Patient Safety Alerting System

The National Patient Safety Alerting System (NPSAS) has been launched to strengthen the rapid dissemination of urgent patient safety alerts to healthcare providers via the Central Alerting System (CAS).

Alerts will be issued in up to three stages, each denoted by a letter (W, Re and D) although all stages may not be issued as an alert.

Stage One Alert: Warning (W)

This stage 'warns' organisations of emerging risk. It can be issued very quickly once a new risk has been identified to allow rapid dissemination of information. Trusts will be asked to consider if immediate action is required and to develop an action plan to reduce risk of a similar incident occurring. Organisations are asked to share learning from their investigations and locally developed good practice.

Stage Two Alert: Resource (Re)

This alert may be issued some weeks or months after the stage one alert, and could consist of:

- sharing of relevant local information identified by providers following a stage one alert;
- sharing of examples of local good practice that mitigates the risk identified in the stage one alert;
- access to tools and resources that help providers implement solutions to the stage one alert; and
- access to learning resources that are relevant to all healthcare workers and can be used as evidence of continued professional development.

Stage Three Alert: Directive (D)

When this stage of alert is issued, organisations will be required to confirm they have implemented specific solutions or actions to mitigate the risk. A checklist will be issued of required actions to be signed-off in a set timeframe. These actions will be tailored to the patient safety issue.

Further resources

- [NPSAS guide for healthcare providers](#)
- [PowerPoint presentation on NPSAS](#)