

29 March 2018

NHS Board Chief Executives
Integrated Joint Boards Chief Officers

Edinburgh Office

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Dear colleagues

Duty of Candour

The new statutory [Organisational Duty of Candour](#) will be implemented on 1 April 2018. This new legislation requires all health and social care providers to be open and honest when there has been an unexpected event or incident which has resulted in death or harm, that is not related to the course of the condition for which the person is receiving care.

The Healthcare Improvement Scotland Adverse Events Programme has been supporting health organisations to prepare for the implementation of Duty of Candour. This includes working in collaboration with NHS Education for Scotland to develop the [Duty of Candour online learning module](#) as well as the roll out of eight national Complaints and Duty of Candour events.

Two new Duty of Candour pages have been created within the Adverse Events Community of Practice website. These pages encourage colleagues to share approaches, policies, processes and tools that are under development to facilitate collective knowledge and a collaborative approach (one page is secure to allow confidential sharing of documents under development).

We established and facilitated a short life working group to develop materials to support a consistent approach to the implementation of Duty of Candour. This group has developed a portfolio of example scenarios where an organisation may or may not apply the Duty of Candour. It should be noted that these examples are not directive and that each organisation will be required to consider and make its decision based on individual circumstances.

This portfolio of examples can be found in the resources section of the open [Duty of Candour page](#) within the Adverse Events Community of Practice website. This will remain a live document which will be regularly updated with additional examples. If you would like to submit a scenario example for the portfolio or have any questions regarding the existing material please contact hcis.adverseevents@nhs.net.

We request that Chief Executives, Medical Directors, Nursing Directors, Chief Officers and Clinical Directors in Health and Social Care Partnerships circulate this information to relevant colleagues including those in primary care.

Yours faithfully



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