NHS Governance - Clinical Governance
NHS Grampian

The call for views stated: “Clinical Governance refers to the systems through which NHS organisations are accountable for continuously monitoring and improving the quality of their care and services, and ensuring they safeguard high standards.”

The inquiry asks the following questions:
- Are services safe, effective, and evidence-based?
- Are patient and service users’ perspectives taken into account in the planning and delivery of services?
- Do services treat people with dignity and respect?
- Are staff and the public confident about the safety and quality of NHS services?
- Do quality of care, effectiveness and efficiency drive decision making in the NHS?
- Are the correct systems in place to detect unacceptable quality of care and act appropriately when things go wrong?

The following information sets out a number of systems in place within NHS Grampian to provide the inquiry with a measure of assurance that Clinical (and Care) Governance is at the heart of the 4 organisations below:

Within NHS Grampian there are 3 Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) aligned to the 3 Local Authorities, (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray) each under the leadership of a Chief Officer.

NHS Grampian (the Health Board) serves the local population of 500,000. All Health and Social Care partnerships within the 3 IJBs monitor the quality and effectiveness of the services it provides through its Clinical and Care Governance Committees. These Committees report directly to the relevant IJB Board.

NHS Grampian has a formal Clinical Governance Committee (CGC) as a sub Committee of the Grampian NHS Board.

The 3 IJBs and NHS Clinical (and Care) Governance Committees has a Role and Remit which is reviewed and updated regularly. All meet at least quarterly, and are formally minuted.

The 3 IJBs Committees are chaired and vice chaired by either a NHS Board Member or local elected Council Member, who make up the voting membership of the IJBs. The NHS Grampian Clinical Governance Committee is chaired and vice chaired by Non-Executive Board Members.

All 4 Committees are supported by at least one member of staff from the NHS Grampian, Quality Governance and Risk Unit (QGRU).

Agenda setting meetings are convened and an agenda template is used to cover all safe, effective and person centred matters that require to be discussed, to provide
assurance that care is being monitored. For example feedback reports are under the Person Centred section and Adverse Event trends and lessons learned are reported under Safe.

Within the IJBs, services are regularly asked to report to their respective Committee using a self-assessment tool designed by the Quality Governance and Risk team. Other tools are used for reporting that include “how safe is your service” as well as a standard template to provide updates from previous Committees. These templates also include opportunity to describe lessons learned and good practice.

NHS Grampian Clinical Governance Committee ask services using similar templates to report through their divisional Clinical Governance groups and escalate items to the NHS Grampian Clinical Governance Committee. Annual reports are invited from a number of other Committees including the Infection Prevention and Control Committee and Resuscitation Committee. At each Committee a number of items will be selected as main items for discussion under each heading to provide the opportunity for members to scrutinise in greater detail.

The current reporting structure to the NHSG Clinical Governance Committee is included in Appendix 1. Where appropriate each IJB is provided the opportunity to report matters relating to health services directly to the NHS Grampian Clinical Governance Committee.

In 2015 NHS Grampian commissioned a high level review of clinical governance arrangements to benchmark and to provide assurance that the Clinical Governance Committee was fulfilling its role and remit. The improvement action plan developed from this report was used to ensure continuous improvement.

The NHS Grampian Clinical Governance Committee report through a formal process to Grampian NHS Board and the Performance Governance Committee.

The QGRU Clinical Governance team monitor and maintain an external review database and alert the Chairs of Committees on items that may be pertinent or relevant as agenda items for Governance Committees/groups across NHS Grampian. The Clinical Governance team provide support to these areas to share examples of best practice across all sites. NHS Grampian are currently working with Healthcare Improvement Scotland as a pilot Board to develop the new Quality of Care Reviews which will enhance future scrutiny work.

Each IJB has recently completed their first annual report.

The Chair of the Clinical Governance Committee provides an annual statement confirming the Committee has fulfilled its remit and adequate and effective governance arrangements have been in place for the year.
Appendix 1: NHS Grampian Clinical Governance Committee Relationship to the Board and other Committees

- **GRAMPIAN NHS BOARD**
  - NHS Grampian Staff Governance Committee
  - NHS Grampian Performance Governance Committee
  - NHS Grampian Clinical Governance Committee
  - NHS Grampian Engagement and Participation Committee
  - NHS Grampian Spiritual Care Committee

Integration Joint Board Clinical & Care Governance Groups:

- Acute Sector Clinical Care Quality and Safety Group
- GMED Clinical Governance Group
- Mental Health & Learning Disability Service Clinical Governance Group
- Public Health & Planning Clinical Governance Groups

NHS Grampian Groups and Committees reporting to the NHS Grampian Clinical Governance Committee:
- Advisory Committee on Resuscitation
- Quality Improvement in Dentistry
- Eye Health Network
- General Ophthalmic Services
- Hospital Transfusion Committee
- Infection Prevention and Control Committee
- Medication Safety Committee
- Pharmacy Committee
- Public Protection (Adult, Child and Prevent) Committee
- Radiation Safety Committee
- Research & Development Committee
- Clinical Operations Group