



17 July 2013

Institute of Biomedical Science

Formal Response to Francis Report

In February the Francis Report was published. The Institute released a statement in response to this Report outlining its commitment to support its members in providing safe, high quality care. We also committed to a detailed review of the report's findings, an assessment of the impact of its recommendation on members and their practice and a formal response in support of members and the protection of patients.

We have spent much time over this and Council believes that we have identified the key themes for action to improve patient safety, promote best practice and although the Francis Report is focused on England we feel our responses will support the profession across the United Kingdom,

The three themes are:

- a) Safe Care
- b) Regulation and Inspection
- c) Outcomes

Safe Care

Biomedical science is 'science in the service of life' and those who work in it are there because they want to make a difference to patients and the public at large.

We want to provide care that is compassionate, considerate and assures users of the service of its quality and safety.

High quality care includes following best practice and measuring outcomes and should be integral to the commissioning of services.

In support of this, the Institute will:

- Ensure that our Code of Conduct aligns with the NHS Constitution and associated devolved policies, the HCPC Code of Practice and reflects a values-based system centred on compassion, commitment and professionalism.
- Publish and assess against professional standards.
- Ensure members are able to fulfil their duty of candour to raise serious concerns and incidents of substandard care
- Produce a series of evidence based practice guides and actively promote them to members, commissioners and service providers and users
- Facilitate members' access to a CPD scheme that meets the requirements for registration now and in the future

Regulation and Inspection

The Institute has, and should continue to have, a role in accreditation to ensure that quality standards in education, training and service provision are maintained and that practice placements meet the required standards.

In support of this, the Institute will:

- Promote a partnership model, working with regulators and investigators across the UK and the Royal Colleges, to support assessment of external and peer review.
- Establish a cadre of assessors to assist regulatory bodies and providers
- Establish and promote assurance systems for the non-regulated laboratory workforce

Outcomes

Data on patient care allows the monitoring of service quality, the production of outcome measures and can drive improvements in service provision. Outcomes are delivered with good leadership and high quality care.

In support of this, the Institute will:

- Contribute to the development of quality standards including, CPA/ISO Standards, Key Performance Indicators, external and internal quality assurance
- Contribute to the management of variation of services e.g. the national laboratory medicine catalogue, pathology harmony and demand management initiatives.

- Continue to develop and enhance its post graduate education programmes e.g. Quality Management and Leadership Certificates.

We are confident that by addressing these priority areas we will be able to better support members in their every day practice.

Council has also taken the opportunity to identify the implications of the Francis' recommendations on the internal governance arrangements of the Institute. A further work stream has been established to address these with the main focus being on the roles and responsibilities of trustees.

I hope that you will agree that this is the right direction of travel for the Institute and I would be happy to receive feedback from members on our response to the Francis Report. Please send any comments you may have to president@ibms.org.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derek Bishop". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping underline.

Derek Bishop
President
Institute of Biomedical Science