

Medical and Allied Branch

CHIEF PROFESSIONAL LETTER

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- HSS Boards
- HSS Trusts
- Special Agencies
- Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority

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Your Ref:

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Dear Colleague

RE: NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY AGENCY – PATIENT SAFETY OBSERVATORY REPORT AND BULLETIN

On 21 July 2005, the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) issued its first national report on patient safety data analysis in England and Wales together with the first issue of the *Patient Safety Bulletin* – a review of learning from reported incidents.

The Patient Safety Observatory Report – *Building a Memory: Preventing Harm, Reducing Risks and Improving Patient Safety* describes the role of the NPSA's Patient Safety Observatory in supporting improvement and patient safety at national level. The accompanying *Patient Safety Bulletin* provides feedback to NHS organisations in order to highlight themes that organisations need to be aware of including:

- deaths involving tracheotomy patients being cared for on general wards;
- issues relating to anticoagulant medication; and
- missing or broken equipment on crash call trolleys.

You may wish to bring the contents of these documents to the attention of staff, particularly those involved in governance and risk management within your organisation.

The Report and Bulletin can be accessed on:

www.npsa.nhs.uk/site/media/documents/1257_PSO_bulletin.pdf and
www.npsa.nhs.uk/site/media/documents/1280_PSO_Report.pdf

