



Chief Executives, HSS Boards
Chief Executives, HSS Trusts (existing & new)
Chief Executives, Special Agencies
Chief Executive, RQIA
Chief Executive, MHC

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Ref: **Circular HSS (SQS) 08/2007**
Date: 15 January 2007

Dear Colleague

Re: National Confidential Inquiry: 5 year report into suicide and homicide by people with Mental Illness (NICISH)

In December 2006, the National Confidential Inquiry issued its five year report into suicide and homicide by people with mental illness.

The report highlights the areas of clinical practice that need to be strengthened if suicides and homicides are to be prevented and it suggests actions that services can take.

The areas for 'Future Prevention' on which the report focuses include:

Suicides and Homicides:

- Absconding from in-patient wards
- Transition from in-patient wards to the community
- Use of CPA and Management of Risk
- Responding when a care plan breaks down
- Attitudes to prevention
- Observation on in-patient wards
- Ward Environment
- Dual Diagnosis
- Suicide in older people

Sudden Unexplained Deaths:

- Safer prescribing
- Physical Healthcare
- Restraint
- Resuscitation

You will wish to bring the contents of this document to the attention of staff, particularly those involved in governance and risk management within your organisation. Organisations need to be aware of this report in order to meet criteria 5.3.1 (f) of the *Quality Standards for Health and Social Care* which includes implementation of recommendations contained in National Confidential Enquiries.

The report and report summary can be accessed on

http://www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk/suicideprevention/nci/Useful/avoidable_deaths.pdf

http://www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk/suicideprevention/nci/Useful/avoidable_deaths_summary.pdf

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Briscoe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Dr M Briscoe
Safety, Quality and Standards Directorate