

Learning Alerts: Deteriorating Patients

October 2022

What is the Problem?

Patients who are, or become, acutely unwell in our hospitals may receive suboptimal care. This may be because their deterioration is not recognised, or despite indications of clinical deterioration it is not appreciated or acted upon quickly enough or a Medical plan is not agreed, documented, and Communicated.

Early identification and pre-emptive management of the deteriorating patient can help to prevent or reduce organ failure and greatly improve patient survival, as well as potentially averting ICU admission or reducing length of ICU stay.



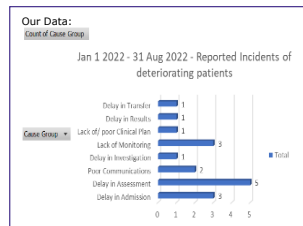
The NICE Staff

Learning from incidents

Pt X: delay in an early recognition of deterioration, NEWS of 5

- No documented evidence to suggest any action was taken following this NEWS of 5
- Lack of adequate nursing documentation and Substandard ED documentation by the medical team
- No escalation of this patient compounded by a delay in initial assessment
- Pathways referral misunderstood

There is underreporting that we need to address. **REPORT.**



Lessons learnt: Assess, monitor, escalate, communicate

