

**July 2015**

**Alert No: 20**

## **Clinical Alert: Assessments in Emergency Settings**

There has been a death following the assessment of a service user in an emergency setting, when senior colleagues were not involved in risk assessment and discharge planning.

There have been particular issues with previously unknown clients, when efforts were not made to get corroborating information and/ or family members not consulted, as part of the assessment.

The 'Clinical Risk Assessment and Management Policy' states:

*Risk assessment and planning should be carried out within the multi-disciplinary team to increase the sharing of information and promote a multi-perspective approach.*

*Where possible and considered necessary, risk information should be sought from a wide variety of sources...*

### Action

1. All clinical staff must adequately and appropriately involve seniors in discussing risk and planning treatment for clients seen in emergency situations
2. On call senior trainees or consultant psychiatrists must be appropriately involved to discuss assessments in emergency settings
3. All discussions and contact regarding patients must be fully documented
4. Efforts must be made to corroborate information, including from family members and other agencies involved with the patient