The National Quality Assurance Information System (NQAIS) Medicine is an essential electronic tool to capture data on medical patients to deliver further efficiencies with the implementation of the National Acute Medicine Programme. It was developed by Dr Howard Johnson, Health Intelligence Unit, HSE and his colleagues with input from the programme. Adoption of the NQAIS tool for capturing data on medical patients was identified by the Acute Medicine Programme as a priority for 2016. NQAIS Medicine is being rolled out gradually this year to the various Acute Medicine sites in Ireland. It is envisaged that it will be fully operational in all of the sites by mid 2017.

By implementing NQAIS Medicine, it will provide significant benefits to Acute Medicine in Ireland:

- Empower hospital management and clinical leadership:
  - By championing objective data driven decision making
  - Reviewing data and identifying areas that require investigation
  - Initiating root cause analyses
  - Initiating improvements and managed corrective actions
  - Monitoring quality improvement cycles
- Recommending that Activity Based Funding cross all care interfaces, ensure that costs/wards are fairly apportioned between GPs/Community and Hospitals.
- Co-operation, interdisciplinary working and accurate, timely data to:
  - Increase the throughput of acute medical patients through the AMAU/MAU by diverting them from overcrowded EDs to alleviate trolley waits
  - Improve patient flow to and from primary, secondary and tertiary care
  - Identify and remove delay, duplication, risk and cost
  - Improved working relationship with Hospital Groups by building confidence and cooperation between GPs and hospitals, and hospital group.

Further reduction of Length of Stay (LoS) of medical patients of 0.02 days would result in efficiency costs of €800,000 in the service. Reduction of LoS of 0.1 days would save a marginal rate of €200 per day equivalent to €4m per annum.

New Appointment: The team would like to thank Ms Eilish Croke, outgoing Programme Manager, for her hard work on the Acute Medicine Team for the past 5 years.. Eilish had huge involvement in the introduction of NQAIS medicine, the National Early Warning Score, the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee and the Clinical Handover Guidelines. We are delighted to welcome the newly appointed Programme Manager, Ms Clare Harney, to the Acute Medicine Team. Clare has been working in the health industry for the past few years so she will be a great asset to the team.

Upcoming Event: The National Acute Medicine Nurse Interest Group (AMNIG) Symposium and Launch by Minister for Health Mr Simon Harris T.D. of 'Setting the Direction – A Developmental Framework Supporting Nursing Practice Skills and Competencies in Acute Medical Assessment Units (AMAUs) and Medical Assessment Units (MAUs)' is taking place on Monday 5th September in Dublin Castle. Next month we will feature a piece on this event. @AMNIG1#acutemednursing