



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

## Maternity Safety Statement Guidance Book

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## Introduction

There is a requirement for all 19 Maternity Units to report and publish a Maternity Safety Statement (the “Statement”) on a monthly basis. The purpose of the Statement is for each local hospital and Hospital Group to review their own data on a monthly basis in relation to their maternity services. This data will inform management and assist them in carrying out their role in safety and quality improvement. It is intended to assist in an early warning mechanism for issues that require local action and or escalation.

The objective in publishing the Statement each month is to provide public assurance that each of the 19 maternity units delivers services in an environment that promotes open disclosure.

It is not intended that the monthly Statement be used as a comparator with other units or that they would be aggregated at Hospital Group or national level. It is important to note tertiary and referral maternity centres will care for a higher complexity of mothers and babies. Rates of clinical activity and outcomes will be higher and therefore these should not be compared with units that do not look after complex cases.

The two elements within the Statement are:

1. Clinical Activity – the clinical elements within the Statement will be drawn from and will be fully consistent with definitions for the IMIS/ QA1 metrics. It is accepted that a number of the other outcome metrics in the IMIS/ QA1 require further discussion to ensure consistency in reporting before they would be included in a monthly published maternity statement.
2. Incidents –there is a requirement to provide visibility of clinical incidents reported on the NIMS in the month.

Each month, the Maternity Safety Statements must be signed off by the Hospital Group Clinical Director and CEO before being published. Responsibility for publishing lies with each hospital. Statements may be published to hospital/hospital group or the HSE Maternity Safety Statement homepage (<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/3/maternity/mpss/>).

Statements are published 2 months in arrears, on the last day of the 2 months. For example, January statements are to be published on the last day of March, February statements are published on the last day of April and so on.

The compliance with this requirement is recorded as a Key Performance Indicator “ % of maternity hospitals/units that have completed and published monthly Maternity Safety Statements” and reported on a monthly basis.

Statement data is discussed at the engagement meetings between the National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) and the Hospital Networks. This engagement is seen as key to promote connectivity between NWIHP and hospitals and also to promote a culture of quality and safety. This engagement from 2020 will be recorded as a Key Performance Indicator “ % of Hospital Groups that have discussed a quality and safety agenda with NIWHP on a bi/quarterly/monthly basis, in line with the frequency stipulated by NIWHP”.

These key performance indicators promote the HSEs strategic priority of providing a culture of safety and quality and form part of the NWIHP suite of KPIs in the National Service Plan 2020 (<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/national-service-plan-2020.pdf>).

# Implementation Guidelines for Completing and Publishing the Monthly Statement

## Completing the Monthly Statement

1. Metrics requiring numbers (n) should be written as whole numbers: this applies to metrics #1, #2, #3, #5, #6 and #17.

2. Metrics requiring rates should be written with 1 decimal place (e.g. 0.7): this applies to metrics #4 and #7.

3. The Delivery metrics (#8 to #16 inclusive) are all percentages (%) and should be written with 1 decimal place.

4. The Maternity Safety Statement is based primarily on data sourced directly from maternity units. It is designed to capture and measure clinical activities, incidents and staffing levels within the maternity unit. **It is primarily a management tool for each hospital to report on their own data.** The data will be collected within the hospital, by hospital staff, and analysed by hospital managers.

5. **Clinical Elements:** The clinical elements within the Statement are drawn from the IMIS/QA1. The data for these elements must be sourced from the nominated IMIS/QA1 Officer in each maternity unit. As per guidance for IMIS/QA1, please do NOT use data or reports from national-level datasets, such as the Hospital Inpatient Enquiry System (HIPE), the National Perinatal Reporting System (NPRS), or National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC).

6. **Incidents:** The elements relating to the total number of clinical incidents reported on NIMS will be based on the numbers **reported on NIMS** for each calendar month. It is recommended that the data for these components is sourced from the QPS personnel in each hospital. In order to generate the report required for Maternity Safety Statements, the reporter needs to create an Ad-Hoc report as normal and complete the following:

- I. Fill out the usual fields such as report name, description, etc.
- II. Click the 'select data' tab and add the following conditions:
- III. Create Date is between the first day and last day of the month concerned
- IV. Incident/Hazard Category should be "Clinical Care"
- V. Specialty should be "Maternity Services"

- VI. Click the 'other info' tab and under 'Include Incidents' click yes.
- VII. Save the report and click run.

## Monthly Reporting

- 7. Hospital Managers are to review the Statement on a monthly basis at their performance and management team meeting.
- 8. Hospitals will then share their respective Maternity Safety Statements with the Hospital Group CEO and escalate matters that require a Hospital Group response.
- 9. Each Hospital Group CEO is to have a process in place to review the Maternity Safety Statements for the maternity units within their Groups as part of the monthly performance meetings and sign off on same prior to their publication.
- 10. The statements form part of the agenda and will be discussed at the regular periodic engagement with NWIHP.

## Publishing the Statement on a Monthly Basis

- 11. The Maternity Safety Statements may be published to hospital/hospital group website or to the HSE Maternity Safety Statement homepage. Responsibility for publishing lies with each hospital. Assistance with publishing can be sought from [digital@hse.ie](mailto:digital@hse.ie)
- 12. Statements are published 2 months in arrears, on the last day of the second month. For example, January statements are to be published on the last day of March, February statements are published on the last day of April and so on.

It is important that each Hospital Group has a nominated clinical spokesperson in place to address any media queries.

**Note:** The Maternity Safety Statement has a column that seeks data in relation to current "YTD" (Year to Date) information. For all metrics please populate the YTD column from January 2016 onwards.

For MSS related queries or concerns please contact: [aideenquigley@hse.ie](mailto:aideenquigley@hse.ie)

Your engagement with this process is appreciated.