

MEMO

- To:** Acute Hospitals CEOs/General managers, Consultants in Emergency Medicine, Directors of Nursing Acute Hospitals, Therapy lead (National Clinical Programmes) Director of Nursing and Midwifery Reference group (National Clinical Programmes), Emergency Nursing Interest Group, NMPDU Unit and Area Directors, IADNAM Executive, Kathleen MacLellan, Nurse Advisor Department of Health, Irish Association of Emergency Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland.
- Cc:** Mr Tony O'Brien, Director General HSE; Ms Laverne McGuinness Chief Operations Officer; Mr Ian Carter, Director Acute Hospitals; Dr Aine Carroll, Director of Clinical Strategy and Programmes; Mr Barry O'Brien, National Director of Human Resources; Regional Directors of Performance and Integration;
- From:** Dr Una Geary, National Clinical Lead, Emergency Medicine Programme
Dr Michael Shannon, Nursing and Midwifery Services Director, AND, CSPD HSE
- Date:** 12th August 2013
- Re:** Guidance Document on staffing for Local Injury Units (LIUs)

Please find attached a **Guidance Document on staffing for Local Injury Units (LIUs)** which has been developed by the National Emergency Medicine Programme (EMP) and the Office of the Nursing and Midwifery Services Director (ONMSD). This guidance document supplements the recent publication from the Department of Health *Securing the Future of Smaller Hospitals: A framework for Development* (DoH / HSE 2013) as well as the recently issued *EMP Guide to Enhance Advanced Nurse Practitioner Services across Emergency Care Networks in Ireland* (HSE 2013).

LIUs are in evolution phase and therefore this guidance is timely in assisting development of these units within Emergency Care Networks (ECNs). The guidance document has undergone extensive stakeholder consultation and the recommendations within the document are based on operational experience to date. The National Emergency Medicine Programme will review this guidance on a regular basis and update it as activity data from LIUs becomes available and further operational experience of LIUs within ECNs is gained.

It is acknowledged that LIUs will vary in attendance volumes and geographical settings therefore the staffing guidance presented does not preclude the employment of additional staff on the basis of service demand or service characteristics at hospital, network or regional level. This guidance should be used to implement, develop and sustain multidisciplinary teams with appropriate staff compliment and skill-mix to optimise patient safety, quality of care and value in the LIU.

The guidance document was developed before the Haddington Road agreement and thus we acknowledge the implications of the recently agreed public service agreement when considering this guide with particular reference to the working hours/week. These agreements will be reflected in future revisions of this guidance.

We would be grateful if you would circulate this guidance document to those appropriate personnel within your organisations