

IRIC Safety Bulletin

Reporting suicide and self harm incidents involving the NHS estate

What happened?

IRIC regularly reviews self-harm and suicide incident reports involving equipment, fixtures, fittings, building fabric and estate within all healthcare environments. These incidents, including near misses, are typically recorded on local risk management systems, such as Datix or InPhase.

IRIC is aware of occasions where self-harm and suicide incidents or near misses have not yet been reported to the national system; or were reported later than intended.

Recent reports range across healthcare settings and estate elements, such as medical equipment, furniture, plastic bags and building fixtures; oft used in non-intended ways as ligatures or other harms.

What did we learn?

National reporting, investigation and review of self-harm and suicide incidents and near misses provide valuable learning opportunities. This larger database helps identify estate hazards, any shifting trends and is essential to support learning that may reduce self-harm opportunities. To this end, IRIC shares adverse incident information with Health Boards and UK estates and facilities colleagues.

Information from national incident reporting contributes directly to local, national or UK-wide learning activities, including safety communications where appropriate. Gaps or delays in reporting incidents from local systems to IRIC's national system can hinder this process and reduce shared learning opportunities.

How can it be prevented?

Intentional acts, including a near-miss or opportunity to harm are important to report nationally as an adverse incident. These provide valuable insights and information about equipment, fixtures, fittings and the built environment which could identify opportunities to reduce future risk.

All self-harm and suicide attempts that relate to the healthcare estate and facility operations should therefore be reported to local risk management systems and to IRIC as soon as possible.

If you become aware of an adverse incident or near miss, or if you have a safety concern about a piece of equipment, report it to IRIC (details below). Incidents and near misses should also be reported to your local incident reporting and learning system which you might know as InPhase, Datix or Ullyses.

IRIC Incident Reporting &
Investigation Centre

To find safety alerts:
scan the QR code or [click
this link to visit our website](#)



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scan the QR code or [click
this link to visit our website](#)

