

# Patient Safety ALERT – Rescuing the deteriorating patient

There have been a number of serious incidents in the last six months relating to failure to rescue the deteriorating patient. Common themes emerging from the resulting investigations include the following:

- failure to identify patients at risk of deterioration – what is the early warning score telling you?,
- failure to escalate to the appropriate people deteriorating patients, and
- failure to respond with the timely and appropriate action(s) to patients at risk of, or who are deteriorating,

**Required Actions** - Please ensure ALL clinical staff are aware of the following:

- adhere to the **early warning score (EWS)** system – this helps you to identify when your patient needs increased observation,
- **escalate** patients when there is evidence of clinical deterioration, and
- if you are asked to respond to a call about a deteriorating patient, ensure the **response is timely and appropriate**
- if the response to a request to review a deteriorating patient is not the outcome that is in the best interest of the patient, ensure further action is taken, e.g. **escalation to a more senior clinician / on call manager.**