



By email only

*Dear member,*

*I would be grateful if you will forward this letter on to the Chair(s) of the Medical Advisory Committee(s) (or equivalent) and to all Registered Managers in your organisation. This letter has been sent to all IHPN members with the aim of ensuring a consistent message around the newly refreshed Medical Practitioners Assurance Framework across clinical leaders and Registered Managers in the independent healthcare sector.*

**Medical Practitioners Assurance Framework – a letter to MAC Chairs (or equivalent) and Registered Managers**

As you will be aware, in 2019, IHPN, in partnership with former NHS National Medical Director Sir Bruce Keogh and with partners including the Care Quality Commission, The General Medical Council and others, launched the Medical Practitioners Assurance Framework (MPAF).

The aim of the MPAF is to provide consistency around medical governance in the independent healthcare sector and to provide a contemporary consensus view of expected practice and standards of medical practitioner assurance. Since its launch in 2019, we have welcomed the work of independent providers and practitioners in embedding the framework and driving consistency in this area. The framework has also been adopted by CQC who use the framework's principles in assessing how well-led an independent service is, as well as NHS England who have made it a requirement of the NHS' 2022/23 Standard Contract which all independent sector providers of NHS-funded care must adhere to.

The MPAF was always designed to be a "live document" and in the last year we have worked with a number of Chief Medical Officers and Responsible Officers from within our membership, as well as CQC, the Department of Health and Social Care and other key stakeholders. to strengthen and revise the original MPAF - ensuring it remains in-keeping with current best practice in the health system. This includes taking into account recommendations from the Bishop of Norwich's inquiry into Ian Paterson, Baroness Cumberlege's Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review (IMMDS), as well as strengthening areas around patient consent and the need to have greater transparency around conflict of interest declarations.

The MPAF refresh continues to focus on the below four key areas and outlines medical practitioner and organisational responsibilities:

- Creating an effective clinical governance structure for medical practitioners
- Monitoring patient safety and clinical quality, encouraging continuous improvement
- Supporting whole practice appraisal
- Raising and responding to concerns



## Independent Healthcare Providers Network

In addition, it includes a clear plan for how IHPN will support members to further improve their work in this area and over the coming months we will be working with you to provide a range of materials and events that will help the sector to share best practice and support good medical governance.

We do hope you find this information useful, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you again for all your support and leadership in embedding the MPAF in your organisation and we hope this refreshed document will assist you in driving further improvements in safety and medical governance.

Yours sincerely,

**David Hare**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Independent Healthcare Providers Network**