

28 February 2022

Covid-19 – SAIs Recorded Since First Covid-19 Case in Northern Ireland

- 1. Can all Health Trusts provide me with a breakdown of the number of SAIs that have been recorded since the first Covid-19 case arrived in Northern Ireland?**

In Belfast Trust the number of SAIs between 1 March 2020 and 18 February 2022 = 368 (SAI Notifications reported)

- 2. Can you detail how many of these relate to hospitals, care homes and community settings?**

Breakdown of SAIs for the period 1 March 2020 to 18 February 2022 by setting:

Healthcare Setting	Count
Care Home	41
Community	117
Hospital	210
Total	368

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3. Can the type of incident be shown in each column, i.e. death, serious injury, suspected suicide?

NB: SAIs are not categorised by the above criteria.

Table 3A: Breakdown of SAI Notifications between 1 March 2020 and 18 February 2022 by SAI Criteria

SAI Criteria	Count
Serious incidents of public interest or concern	14
Serious injury to, or the unexpected/ unexplained death	109
Serious self-harm / assault by Service user in the community	13
Serious self-harm / assault within Healthcare facility	5
Suspected suicide of MH Client/ Patient of last 12 months	43
Unexpected or significant threat to provide service and / or	5
Unexpected serious risk to service user and / or staff member	179
Grand Total	368

Table 3B: Breakdown of Covid-19 related SAIs between 1 March 2020 and 18 February 2022 by SAI Criteria

SAI Criteria	Count
Serious incidents of public interest or concern	2
Serious injury to, or the unexpected/ unexplained death	17
Unexpected serious risk to service user and / or staff member	29
Grand Total	48

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4. Can it be broken down to show how many SAIs relate to Covid patients, again detailing how many in each setting?

BHSCT currently do not hold information in the format requested. However, we are able to provide the following information:

Table 4: Breakdown of Covid-19 related SAIs* between 1 March 2020 and 18 February 2022 by setting type
 (* This is an SAI that has Covid referenced in the SAI Descriptor and / or Covid related question on Datix has been selected)

Healthcare Setting	Count
Care Home	11
Community	5
Hospital	32
Grand Total	48

5. Can you provide data/details of the number of investigations, which have been initiated related to these SAIs and recommendations made?

There have been 92 SAI reviews completed out of the 368 SAI notifications submitted.

From 69 of the 92 completed SAI reviews, 110* learning themes have been confirmed to date.

(As per Question 4 - out of the 48 Covid related SAIs, 10 have been completed - as at 18 February one Learning theme has been confirmed)

Datix does not store recommendations. These recommendations are contained within individual reports and it would require more than 18 hours in extracting the information. The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

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On average, there are several recommendations per completed SAI review. Learning themes are confirmed after an SAI Review has been completed and these can therefore take time to be recorded.

Table 5a: Breakdown of SAI Notifications between 1 March 2020 and 18 February 2022 by current status (as at 18 February 2022)

Current Status	Count
Completed	92
Ongoing	276
Grand Total	368

Table 5b: Breakdown of Learning Themes for Completed SAIs (92) *note some SAIs had more than one learning theme

Learning Theme	Count
C1: Medication Error	8
C2: Misinterpretation or mishandling of test results	7
C5: Risk management failure	3
C7: Related to checking aids e.g. tick box	1
C8: Failings/errors in documentation	12
D1: Failure to act on or recognise deterioration (including escalation)	2
D2: Failure to give ordered treatment/ support in a timely way	1
D3: Failure to observe	3
D4: Staff training/ skills deficiency	4
E1: Necessary equipment failed or faulty	1
E2: Necessary equipment misused or misread by practitioner	2

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F1: Inappropriate discharge	4
F2: Poor/ inadequate handover	2
F4: Failure of continuity of care	8
P2: Health-care associated infections	1
P4: Suicides	16
P6: Cardiac/ respiratory arrests	2
P7: Staff training/ skills deficiency	5
P9: Failure to prevent self-harm or assault or homicide	4
P10: Other	18
Z1: Closed with no learning	6
Total	110

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6. In a separate table, can you show how many SAIs specifically relate to unexplained Covid deaths or serious injuries connected to Covid in each of those settings?

Sadly, from 1 March 2020 to 18 February 2022, there have been 695 patients who have died with Covid recorded on any part of their Death Certificate. It is difficult to assign an explanation of death from our records.

In relation to SAIs, it is also difficult to provide a precise figure as this number is evolving.

At 18 February 2022, there were 10 Covid SAIs noted on Datix that have involved a death. Some of these SAIs have sadly involved more than one patient.

Serious injuries can include injury sustained during a fall. There have been 15 falls-related incidents that have involved Covid patients.

7. If there are outcomes for any of these cases, can that information be included?

Out of the 48 Covid related SAIs, 10 have been completed. As at 18 February 2022, one Learning theme has been confirmed. To date, there has only been one outcome identified from completed Covid-related SAIs and this identified good practice.

We are unable to provide any further information in relation to this SAI, as it involves personal information, which is exempt under Section 40(2) of the FOI Act 2000 – Personal information relating to a third party. This is deemed personal information about another individual and disclosure would breach one or more of the principles of the Data Protection Act.

8. Can you provide data/details of the number of investigations, which have been initiated, related to these SAIs and recommendations made?

A Serious Adverse Incident is a review process, which ensures that incidents are investigated robustly. Refer to answers at Questions 5 and 6.

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9. **Can the SAIs be broken into three-month bands for when the SAIs were recorded - i.e. from March 1 to May 31, 2020, June 1 to August...and so on. That includes showing the SAIs specifically related to Covid.**

Breakdown of SAIs between 1 March 2020 and 18 February 2022 by 3-month period:

Table 9a: Breakdown of SAI Notifications between 1 March 2020 and 18 February 2022 by 3-month period

Breakdown by 3-month period	Count
01 March 2020 to 31 May 2020	23
01 June 2020 to 31 August 2020	29
01 September 2020 to 30 November 2020	79
01 December 2020 to 28 February 2021	51
01 March 2021 to 31 May 2021	46
01 June 2021 to 31 August 2021	46
01 September 2021 to 16 November 2021	54
01 December 2021 to 18 February 2022	40
Total	368

Table 9b: Breakdown of Covid-19 related SAI Notifications between 1 March 2020 and 18 February 2022 by 3-month period

Breakdown by 3-month period	Count
01 March 2020 to 31 May 2020	2
01 June 2020 to 31 August 2020	3
01 September 2020 to 30 November 2020	15
01 December 2020 to 28 February 2021	14
01 March 2021 to 31 May 2021	6
01 June 2021 to 31 August 2021	6
01 September 2021 to 16 November 2021	2
01 December 2021 to 18 February 2022	0
Total	48

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