

## **Patient Safety Incident Framework (PSIRF) - Reps briefing.**

### What is it?

The Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF) was published in August 2022, outlining how NHS employers in England should respond to patient safety incidents for the purpose of learning and improvement and embedding a patient safety culture.

The PSIRF removes the requirement that only incidents meeting the criteria of a 'serious incident' are investigated. The framework supports the key principles of a patient safety culture, focusing on understanding how and why incidents happen, rather than apportioning individual blame; allowing for more effective learning, and ultimately safer care for patients.

### What is the RCN view?

The RCN welcomes the wider scope of this new framework which we consider to be in line with best health and safety practice. All incidents, including near misses, should be reported and investigated in order to establish any root or underlying causes and prevent repeated incidents occurring. The RCN hopes that the emphasis on effective learning promotes a culture shift away from blame as intended.

### What are the next steps for reps?

Organisations are asked to begin a 12-month period of preparation before transitioning to PSIRF from the existing Serious Incident Framework. A range of resources to support this process are available on the NHS England website.

Staff side representatives with responsibility for local bargaining should ensure local safety reps are involved in preparatory work associated with the transition to PSIRF.