

Improving the quality of medical and surgical care

News Release

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Confidential enquiry wins bid to carry on reviews into patient care in hospitals

NCEPOD (National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death) has won its funding bid to continue its job of safeguarding and improving the quality of patient care in the UK's hospitals by undertaking confidential case reviews.

NCEPOD Chairman Mr Bertie Leigh said that after an uncertain year:

“We are delighted to have been successful in the bid for the Clinical Outcome Review Programme into Medical and Surgical Care. This means that we can carry on with our work programme without any interruption in the studies underway and look forward to contributing to the development of patient care. The vital contribution of NCEPOD is that it enables the profession to examine its own work self-critically, constantly to examine the gap between what is and what should be. At a time of structural change in the NHS and unprecedented pressure on NHS resources, this work is of more importance than ever before.

As well as our existing series of medical and surgical case studies we will be undertaking an audit of surgical mortality as part of our work programme. In view of the economic situation there has, understandably, been an overall reduction in our grant, and we will respond to this challenge by harnessing the enthusiasm of the medical profession who take part in our work.”

NCEPOD Chief Executive Dr Marisa Mason said:

“2011 will be another productive year for NCEPOD as we will be publishing studies into surgery in children and peri-operative care whilst carrying on data collection on our studies into the care of patients suffering a cardiac arrest, and for people who undergo weight loss (bariatric) surgery, both studies to be published next year.”

Further information about NCEPOD and its studies can be found at www.ncepod.org.uk

Ends

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Notes to editors

- NCEPOD is an independent charitable organisation that reviews medical and surgical clinical practice and makes recommendations to improve the quality of the delivery of care. We do this by undertaking confidential surveys covering many different aspects of care and making recommendations for clinicians and management to implement.