



'Improving the quality of medical and surgical care'

Quarterly Newsletter

January 2009

Firstly we would like to wish you all a wonderful Happy New Year 2009 and hope you all had a great Christmas break. We also want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support and hard work throughout the past year, without which we would not be able to have put together and produce the reports we have done.

It was a busy and exciting 2008 for NCEPOD. Not only did we launch three reports: 'A Sickle Crisis?' (May '08); 'The heart of the matter' (June '08) and 'For better for worse?' (Nov '08) but we also celebrated 20 years of promoting improvements in health care.



NHS.net

NCEPOD has got its nhs.net address. This is an approved secure email address that will enable us to receive information more conveniently.

Please send all electronic data and confidential information to:

ncepod@nhs.net

Studies:

- Parenteral Nutrition
- Emergency and Elective Surgery in the Elderly

In this issue:

- Cosmetic Surgery
- Deaths in Acute Hospitals
- Acute Kidney Injury

'For better for worse?' Report Launch

NCEPOD launched the report on Wednesday 12th November at Leith's Conference Centre at the British Library.

The aim of the study was to examine the process of care of all patients who died within 30 days of receiving Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT); looking for areas where their care could have been improved.

Recorded delivery

Please try and send all envelopes/packages back by recorded delivery. While the provided business reply envelope to cover the cost of the postage it will only cost your Trust a small additional fee to send it by recorded post. Additionally if you use your own paper/polythene envelopes, jiffy bag or box then please use our freepost address below:

Freepost RRUU - ZALS - JXSX
NCEPOD
4 - 8 Maple Street
LONDON
W1T 5HD

When returning any questionnaires and/or casenotes, please ensure all are packaged securely and that spreadsheets are password protected.

Key findings

- 35% of patients who died within 30 days of receiving chemotherapy had good care.
- 21% of patients were already severely debilitated at the time the decision to treat with chemotherapy was taken.
- NCEPOD advisors considered the decision to treat with chemotherapy was inappropriate in 19% of cases.
- Chemotherapy caused or hastened death in 27% of the cases studied.

- 43% of patients suffered significant treatment-related toxicity.
- 42% of patients, treated with chemotherapy, were admitted to general medicine, during the last 30 days of life, rather than a specialist oncology unit.

The full report, summary report as well as the speakers' slides can be downloaded from our website www.ncepod.org.uk/2008sact.htm



Deaths in Acute Hospitals

Data collection for this study will shortly close, and organisational questionnaires have now also been sent out for completion (please see insert). If you have any outstanding data for this study, we would ask this be returned. **The final date for return of any outstanding data to NCEPOD is Friday 30th January 2009. Any data received after this date will not be included in the final report.** The study is due to be launched on the 5th November 2009.

hospitaldeaths@ncepod.org.uk

Acute Kidney Injury

Data collection for this study has now closed. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has participated in the study and/or helped coordinate the return of questionnaires/casenotes. The report will be launched on the **11th June 2009** at the **Royal Society of Medicine**, 1 Wimpole Street. Further details of the launch will be advertised on our website in Feb 2009. If you wish to reserve a seat, please email reportlaunch@ncepod.org.uk with your details.

acutekidneyinjury@ncepod.org.uk

Parenteral Nutrition

We have now finished piloting the data collection spreadsheet and study questionnaires. Feedback from the pilot study is being incorporated into the main study questionnaires, data for which will be requested later this month. Please note; the study will include patients of all ages that received PN as an inpatient between, **January 1st 2008 and March 31st 2008**. An advert for the recruitment of clinical advisors for the study will be circulated later this month. In order to take part in the peer review of cases, advisors with a relevant clinical background will be expected to attend 4 or 5 meetings throughout the year. Further information on the study is available on our website and specific questions regarding the study should be directed to:

parenteralnutrition@ncepod.org.uk

Emergency and Elective Surgery in the Elderly

Data collection for this study is now underway, and we ask for completed spreadsheets, or notification of a nil return, to be sent to NCEPOD using our new nhs.net address; ncepod@nhs.net. The initial deadline for receipt of these was Friday 19th December, and this has now been extended until **Friday 30th January 2009**. The questionnaires are due to be sent out spring this year. We are currently advertising for advisors to work on this study, and further information regarding this is available on the website. If you have any queries regarding this study, please contact NCEPOD at the email address below.

surgery@ncepod.org.uk

Cosmetic Surgery

NCEPOD are conducting a review of the facilities and organisational structures surrounding the practice of cosmetic surgery within the NHS and the Independent sector. Questionnaires will be disseminated in March 2009.

cosmeticsurgery@ncepod.org.uk



Marisa Mason
Chief Executive
mmason@ncepod.org.uk

Neil Smith
Clinical Researcher
(Deputy Chief Executive)
nsmith@ncepod.org.uk

Heather Cooper
Clinical Researcher
hcooper@ncepod.org.uk

Robert Alleway
IT Manager
ralleyway@ncepod.org.uk

Sabah Begg
Office Administrator
sbegg@ncepod.org.uk

Hannah Shotton
Researcher
hshotton@ncepod.org.uk

Karen Protopapa
Researcher
kprotopapa@ncepod.org.uk

Dolores Jarman
Administrative Officer
djarman@ncepod.org.uk

Kathryn Kelly
Administrative Officer
kkelly@ncepod.org.uk

Rakhee Lakhani
Administrative Officer
rlakhani@ncepod.org.uk

Eva Nwosu
Administrative Officer
enwosu@ncepod.org.uk

Maurice Blackman
Administrative Officer
mblackman@ncepod.org.uk

Surgeon
Mr Ian Martin
(Lead Clinical Co-ordinator)
imartin@ncepod.org.uk

Anaesthetists
Dr David Mason
dmason@ncepod.org.uk
Dr Kathy Wilkinson
kwilkinson@ncepod.org.uk
Dr Alex Goodwin
agoodwin@ncepod.org.uk

Clinical Oncologist
Dr Diana Mort
dmort@ncepod.org.uk

Intensivist
Dr George Findlay
gfindlay@ncepod.org.uk

Pathologist
Prof. Sebastian Lucas
slucas@ncepod.org.uk

Physician
Dr Jim Stewart
jstewart@ncepod.org.uk