

January 2008

Welcome to the NCEPOD Quarterly Newsletter

Happy New Year! 2008 will be another busy year for NCEPOD. We currently have five studies underway and over the next 12 months we look forward to launching three reports as well as starting up a study on Cosmetic surgery. Please review your quarterly newsletters for regular updates on these studies.

If you have any comments about our newsletter, please e-mail choltby@ncepod.org.uk

Advisors

We are looking for appropriate clinicians e.g. nephrologists, general/acute physicians, renal nurses, surgeons and anaesthetists, to form a multidisciplinary group of advisors to review the information and provide expert opinion on the patient care. You would typically be required to attend a 1-day meeting once a month at the NCEPOD offices in London, from May to November 2008. There would also be a training day in mid-April 2008.

If you would be interested in acting as a clinical advisor for this study please send a copy of your CV including the names of two referees to the contact details below.

Deadline for application, 29th February 2008

AcuteKidneyInjury@ncepod.org.uk

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Securing Patient Data

NCEPOD takes the security of patient data extremely importantly. To ensure its safety once arrived at NCEPOD we comply with an international standard for information security (ISO 17799). However, we appreciate that during the return of data, its security is occasionally outside of our full control. To ensure that data is returned to NCEPOD as safely as possible we have listed some guidelines for all Local Reporters and clinicians to follow.

NHS.net

NCEPOD is currently in the process of obtaining an NHS.net address to allow a more secure return of electronic data. We have approval and are liaising with BT and this should be in place within the next 2-3 months. We will notify everyone of this as soon as we have it connected.

Password protection

In all cases, spreadsheets should be returned to NCEPOD password protected. Please then telephone NCEPOD with the password. DO NOT put the password in the covering email, nor in a second one (if the email address was wrong the first time it may be wrong the second time too!).

This also applies to data sent on CD. This is not a method that we would recommend but if it is the only method you can use please password protect it and send by recorded delivery.

Encryption

If you would like to send data to NCEPOD in an encrypted format you are very welcome to. Please contact the staff at NCEPOD who will put you through to our IT Manager Robert Alleway, who will be able to confirm how we can open the document.

Business reply address

For all the questionnaires disseminated by NCEPOD a business reply envelope is provided for their return, along with the associated casenotes. Please do not send originals. We are aware that often these envelopes are not used and packaging can be quite poor. If the questionnaire has too many associated casenotes to fit in to the envelope provided please package them securely in a thick envelope/jiffy bag/box and stick the envelope provided to the front of the package. Alternatively write the following address on the front of your package.

Freepost RRHX-RSJT-HHJG

PO BOX 5662

LONDON

W1A 5WP

Recorded delivery

Please send all packages back by recorded delivery. While the business reply envelope will cover the cost of the postage it will only cost your Trust an additional 70 pence to send it by recorded post.

Systemic anti-cancer therapy

The data collection for spreadsheets and Organisational questionnaires closed in December 2007. If you have a spreadsheet or questionnaire that is almost complete, please contact our office to arrange a possible extension.

We are in the process of doing a final chase for outstanding clinician questionnaires so that we can put them to our February and March advisor meetings. We are also targeting outstanding **sets of casenotes or casenote extracts**. If **certain extracts** are missing that are important for the assessment of a case, we will be providing the list to your Local Reporter via email. If a **whole set** is missing (for Questionnaire A and B), you will find a note of this on your quarterly update.

cancertherapies@ncepod.org.uk

Deaths in acute hospitals

A spreadsheet has been sent to all **acute** hospitals requesting data on patients who died between **1st October 2006** and **31st March 2007**. The deadline for returning this data was **3rd September 2007**. Any sites that have not already sent back a spreadsheet, please do so **as soon as possible**. Questionnaires for this study will be sent out end of February/ beginning of March 2008

hospitaldeaths@ncepod.org.uk

Acute kidney injury

NCEPOD is examining the process of care of all patients who die with a diagnosis of acute kidney injury (AKI: formerly known as acute renal failure) following admission to hospital, looking for areas where their care might have been improved (remediable factors). We are currently recruiting clinical advisors for the study, for further information on this and the study, please visit the website. Please note, patients for the study are being identified from the Death in Acute Hospitals study spreadsheets, which have already been requested.

Acutekidneyinjury@ncepod.org.uk

Severely injured patients

The organisational data for this study is now available on the website. The medical director of each hospital that completed an organisational questionnaire has been sent a unique ID number (to ensure data anonymity) and data has been presented using these numbers alone. To aid comparisons, the data has been analysed and categorised by the number of emergency department (ED) attendees/year. Please contact your medical director for your hospital's unique ID.

SIP@ncepod.org.uk

Coronary artery bypass grafts

The data collection for this study has now ended. The report is due to be launched **on the 4th June 2008**, and further details will be published on the NCEPOD website soon.

cardiothoracic@ncepod.org.uk

Sickle cell disease & thalassaemia

Data collection for this study has now closed. The report is due to be launched on **21st May 2008**. Further details will be available on the NCEPOD website soon.

sicklecell@ncepod.org.uk

Please ensure that when returning data all casenotes and questionnaires are packaged securely and that spreadsheets are password protected.

Non-Clinical Staff

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