

June 2008

Welcome to the NCEPOD Quarterly Newsletter

Its been a busy year so far for NCEPOD. We have launched two reports to date and an additional report is being launched on the 12th of November 2008. We currently have two studies underway and will be starting another in Sept 08. The study on Cosmetic Surgery has currently been delayed and will set off in the Autumn. Please review your quarterly newsletters for regular updates on these studies.

If you have any comments about our newsletter, please e-mail Sabah at

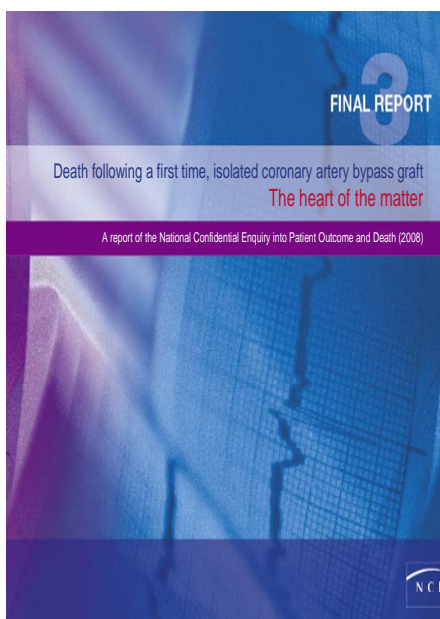
sbegg@ncepod.org.uk

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Our Latest Report: The Heart of the Matter



On Wednesday 4th June 2008, we launched our second report of the year entitled 'The Heart of the Matter'. This report contains the results of the study we undertook over the last three years to establish remedial factors in the care of patients that died following a first time, isolated coronary artery bypass graft. This report is now available on our website at www.ncepod.org.uk

The report was launched at Regents College with the background of the report presented by Prof. Sir Bruce Keogh (NHS Medical Director). The report findings were discussed in the morning and presentations from Mr Leslie Hamilton (President of the Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery in GB & Ireland;

Mr Keith Jackson (Chairman of the British Cardiac Patients Association); Dr Judith Hulf (President of the Royal College of Anaesthetists); and Dr Laura Corr (Consultant Cardiologist) were presented in the afternoon. We had a great turn out and we would like to thank everyone that attended. NCEPOD's presentation slides from the day are available to download/view on our website.

NHS.net

NCEPOD is in its final stages and we should have the NHS.net address this month. This will allow a more secure return of electronic data. We will notify everyone of this as soon as we have it connected.

Recorded delivery

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

Additionally use your own envelope/jiffy bag or box and use our freepost address

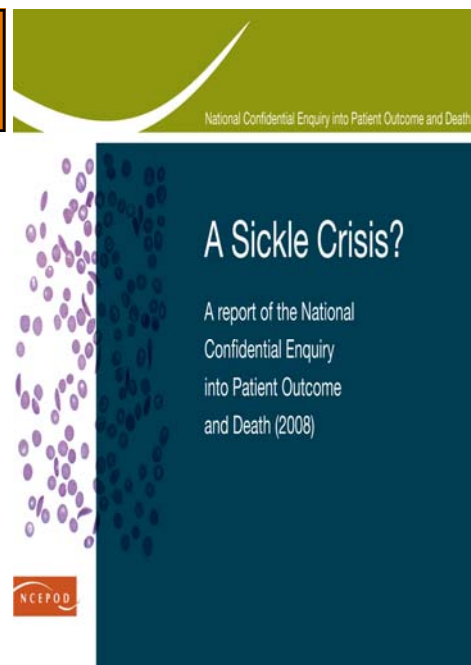
Freepost RRHX-RSJT-HHJG
NCEPOD
PO BOX 5662
LONDON, W1A 5WP

Our First Report for 2008 A Sickle Crisis?

The study into sickle cell and thalassaemia was our first report launched this year on the 21st May at Guy's Hospital. We teamed up with the UK Forum on Haemoglobin Disorders and presented our findings.

The primary aim of this study was to collect information on the care received by haemoglobinopathy patients who died and its secondary aim was to document the causes of death among children and adults with sickle cell diseases and thalassaemia; and to evaluate how well autopsies on these patients were performed.

The full and summary reports are available on our website www.ncepod.org.uk



Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy

The data collection for spreadsheets and organisational questionnaires was extended and finally closed in March 2008. If you have any outstanding spreadsheets or questionnaires they will no longer be accepted. The data collected is being analysed and the draft report should be completed by the end of June. The report is going to be launched on the 12th November at The British Library. Further details will be available on the NCEPOD website soon.

cancertherapies@ncepod.org.uk

Deaths in Acute Hospitals

The deadline for returning this data was 3rd September 2007 and was extended to February 2008. Questionnaires for this study were sent out at the end of March to all relevant consultants. The first advisor meeting will be commencing on the 12th June 08 and run through until January 2009. An Anaesthetic questionnaire is currently being designed and is due to be sent early July.

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). Patients for the study were identified from the Death in Acute Hospitals study spreadsheets using ICD10 coding. Clinician questionnaires have been disseminated and the initial deadline for returns has passed. Please contact the office for an extension. The Advisor meetings commenced in May and will run throughout the summer. Thank you for your continuing help with this study.

acutekidneyinjury@ncepod.org.uk

Parenteral Nutrition

NCEPOD have begun work on a new study on Parenteral Nutrition (PN), which is the administration of nutrition intravenously. PN is administered to patients with a non-functional, inaccessible or perforated gastrointestinal tract. It is also used to improve and maintain the nutritional status of severely malnourished patients who are being prepared for surgery, radiotherapy, or chemotherapy. The study will look at a number of issues, including indication for PN; the type of line used; complications associated with the line and duration of feeding. The protocol/study design is currently being worked on with an expert group. We will run a pilot study later in the summer and commence data collection in late Autumn. For more information contact

parenteralnutrition@ncepod.org.uk

Emergency and Elective Surgery in the Elderly

NCEPOD will be carrying out a study to examine the processes in care of elderly patients undergoing elective and emergency surgery. Data collection for this study will start early 2009. Further information regarding this study will be made available on the website in due course. If you have any queries regarding this study, please contact NCEPOD at the email address below.

surgery@ncepod.org.uk

Radiotherapy

NCEPOD will be carrying out a pilot study to examine the processes of care of patients experiencing adverse incidents during the delivery of Radiotherapy. This will be piloting in the summer. If radiotherapy is currently delivered or has previously been administered at your hospital we would be grateful if you could inform us at the address below as soon as possible.

radiotherapy@ncepod.org.uk

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

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