

10. Quality of medical records and audit

Resuscitation status

Table 2 shows that documentation regarding resuscitation status could only be found in 42 health records (of the 390 sets of notes with sufficient data available for review). Table 3 shows the predicted risk of death on admission to hospital and Table 4 shows the predicted risk of death on referral to the ICU (predicted by referring physician) in the group of patients who died. It is clear that a large number of acute medical admissions in this group were considered to be at high risk of death (expected or at definite risk) - 229 on admission to hospital and 325 at referral to ICU in this study. It is disappointing that only 42 health records contained statements about resuscitation status. This is clearly not in line with GMC guidance.

Table 2. Statement of resuscitation status in health records		
Resuscitation status documented	Total	(%)
Yes	42	(11)
No	348	(89)
Sub-total	390	
Insufficient data	49	
Total	439	

Table 3. Predicted risk of death at hospital admission (group of patients who died)		
Risk of death at hospital admission	Total	(%)
Not expected	40	(12)
Small but significant risk	58	(17)
Definite risk	182	(53)
Expected	47	(14)
Unable to define	15	(4)
Sub-total	342	
Not answered	97	
Total	439	

Table 4. Predicted risk of death on referral to ICU (group of patients who died)		
Risk of death on leaving the ward	Total	(%)
Not expected	1	(0)
Small but significant risk	7	(2)
Definite risk	234	(68)
Expected	91	(27)
Sub-total	342	
Not answered	106	
Total	439	

Where a statement regarding resuscitation could be found, an attempt was made to assess whether discussion had taken place with the patient and/or family. This data is shown in Tables 5 and 6. There was a surprising lack of discussion with patients about this aspect of their treatment. Whilst there was greater

family discussion, there were still a number of patients in whom it appeared that decisions about resuscitation had been made without involvement of either party.

Table 5. Discussion with patients of resuscitation statement	
Patient discussion	Total
Yes	2
No	21
Sub-total	23
Insufficient data	19
Total	42

Table 6. Discussion with patients' families of resuscitation statement	
Family discussion	Total
Yes	17
No	8
Sub-total	25
Insufficient data	17
Total	42