# EMERGENCY AND ELECTIVE SURGERY IN THE ELDERLY

National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NCEPOD)

**ORGANISATIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONFIDENTIAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLEASE COMPLETE ONE ORGANISATIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR EACH HOSPITAL IN YOUR TRUST WHERE SURGERY IS UNDERTAKEN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Trust:</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Hospital:</th>
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<tr>
<td>______________</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of NCEPOD Local Reporter:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_____________________________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## What is this study about?

NCEPOD is examining the remedial factors in the process of care of elderly patients (80 years and older) who died within 30 days of surgery between 1st April & 30th June 2008. Questionnaires should be completed in regards to that time period. The study aims to identify areas where the care of these patients might have been improved (remediable factors). All NHS and independent hospitals that admit both acute and elective admissions in England, Wales and Northern Ireland; public hospitals in the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey, will be included in the study.

## Who should complete this questionnaire?

This questionnaire should be completed by the Medical Director of the Trust or a person nominated by them who would have the knowledge to complete it accurately or be able to seek help to complete it accurately.

To ensure confidentiality of the data, completed questionnaires must be returned directly to NCEPOD.

Please use the SAE provided.

## How to complete this questionnaire

Information will be collected using two methods: Box cross and free text, where your clinical opinion will be requested.

This form will be electronically scanned. Please use a black or blue pen. Please complete all questions with either block capitals or a bold cross inside the boxes provided e.g.

### Does your hospital have a nutrition team??

- ☑ Yes
- ☐ No

If you make a mistake, please “black-out” the incorrect box and re-enter the correct information, e.g.

- ☑ Yes
- ☐ No

Unless indicated, please mark only one box per question.

## Questions or help

If you have any queries about the study or this questionnaire, please contact NCEPOD at:

- surgery@ncepod.org.uk
- Telephone 0207 631 3444

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. The findings of the full study will be published late 2010.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>DEFINITIONS</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appropriate</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The expected health benefits to an average patient exceed the expected health risks by a sufficiently wide margin to make the intervention worthwhile and that intervention is superior to alternatives (including no intervention).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical adverse events</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An unintended injury caused by medical management rather than by the disease process and which is sufficiently serious to lead to prolongation of hospitalisation or to temporary or permanent impairment or disability to the patient at the time of discharge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Critical incident</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any incident or event which has caused or could have caused an adverse outcome for the patient.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Initial assessment (excluding triage)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The patient’s first assessment by a healthcare member of staff (medical or nursing) to identify healthcare needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level of care</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 0</strong>: Patients whose needs can be met through normal ward care in an acute hospital.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 1</strong>: Patients at risk of their condition deteriorating, or those recently relocated from higher levels of care whose needs can be met on an acute ward with additional advice and support from the critical care team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 2</strong>: (e.g. HDU) Patients requiring more detailed observation or intervention including support for a single failing organ system or post operative care, and those stepping down from higher levels of care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 3</strong>: (e.g. ICU) Patients requiring advanced respiratory support alone or basic respiratory support together with support of at least two organs. This level includes all complex patients requiring support for multi-organ failure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical assessment unit (MAU, SAU, etc)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An area where emergency patients are assessed and initial management undertaken by inpatient hospital teams. The patient is only in this area while initial assessment is made and then moved to another ward or discharged. The working of these units varies; some are purely for medical or surgical cases (MAU, SAU etc) while some function across various specialties (CDU, AAU, etc).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(N)CEPOD theatre</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A staffed (medical, nursing and ancillary) emergency operating theatre available on a 24-hour basis; Trusts admitting urgent and emergency cases, must ensure they are provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other adverse events</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.g. fall off trolley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recovery area</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An area to which patients are admitted following an operation or procedure, and where they remain until consciousness is regained, respiration and circulation are stable, and post operative analgesia is established.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Who was responsible for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of answers given to this questionnaire?
   - [ ] Chief Executive
   - [ ] Medical Director
   - [ ] NCEPOD Local Reporter
   - [ ] Clinical Governance Lead
   - [ ] Clinical Director, Surgery
   - [ ] Clinical Director, Anaesthesia
   - [ ] Other (please specify)

2a. How would you describe this hospital?
   - [ ] District general (or equivalent)
   - [ ] University/Teaching
   - [ ] Community
   - [ ] Limited surgical specialties (e.g. Plastic and Burns unit)
   - [ ] Independent
   - [ ] Other (please specify)

2b. Which of the following specialties have operating sessions in your hospital?
   - [ ] Cardiothoracic Surgery
   - [ ] Neurosurgery
   - [ ] Otolaryngology
   - [ ] Plastic Surgery (excluding hand surgery)
   - [ ] Hand Surgery
   - [ ] Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery
   - [ ] General Surgery
   - [ ] Urology
   - [ ] Vascular Surgery
   - [ ] Gynaecology
   - [ ] Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
   - [ ] Other (please specify)

3a. How many beds are there in this hospital?

3b. How many of these are designated as Medicine for the Elderly?

3c. If there are no Medicine for the Elderly beds on the same site as surgery are there arrangements for review of pre- and post operative elderly patients?
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No
   - [ ] Unknown

3d. If yes, how is this done?

3e. Does this hospital have a specific ward for the pre- and post operative care of elderly trauma patients?
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No
   - [ ] Unknown

4a. Does this hospital have an Emergency Department?
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

4b. Does this hospital have any dedicated assessment units?
   - [ ] Surgical
   - [ ] Medical
   - [ ] Acute admissions
5. How many operating theatres are there (excluding obstetric theatres)?

6a. Does the hospital have a SCHEDULED "emergency" theatre for urgent surgical cases (EXCLUDING TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS)? i.e. "(N)CEPOD theatres" during working hours on weekdays (08:00 to 17:59 Monday to Friday)?

   □ Yes   □ No   □ Unknown

6b. If YES, how many of these sessions have a consultant anaesthetist allocated to them?

6c. If YES, how many of these sessions have a consultant surgeon allocated to them?

6d. If YES, which specialties:

   Share the dedicated ' (N)CEPOD' theatre
   □ Cardiothoracic Surgery
   □ Otolaryngology
   □ Hand Surgery
   □ General Surgery
   □ Vascular Surgery
   □ Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
   □ Neurosurgery
   □ Plastic Surgery (excluding hand surgery)
   □ Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery
   □ Urology
   □ Gynaecology
   □ Paediatric Surgery
   □ Other (please specify) _______________________

   Have their own dedicated theatre
   □ Cardiothoracic Surgery
   □ Otolaryngology
   □ Hand Surgery
   □ General Surgery
   □ Vascular Surgery
   □ Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
   □ Neurosurgery
   □ Plastic Surgery (excluding hand surgery)
   □ Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery
   □ Urology
   □ Gynaecology
   □ Paediatric Surgery
   □ Other (please specify) _______________________

6e. Does this hospital have scheduled OUT OF HOURS emergency surgery sessions (EXCLUDING TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS) (18:00 to 07:59 Monday to Friday and all day weekends)?

   □ Yes   □ No   □ Unknown

6f. If YES, how many of these sessions have a consultant anaesthetist allocated to them?

6g. If YES, how many of these sessions have a consultant surgeon allocated to them?

7a. Does the hospital have specific SCHEDULED daytime "emergency" lists for urgent TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDIC cases? i.e. during working hours on weekdays (08:00 to 17:59 Monday to Friday)?

   □ Yes   □ No   □ Unknown
7b. If YES, how many of these sessions have a consultant anaesthetist allocated to them? [ ]

7c. If YES, how many of these sessions have a consultant surgeon allocated to them? [ ]

7d. Does the hospital have scheduled OUT OF HOURS emergency TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDIC surgery sessions (1800 to 0759 Monday to Friday and all day weekends)? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown

7e. If YES, how many of these sessions have a consultant anaesthetist allocated to them? [ ]

7f. If YES, how many of these sessions have a consultant surgeon allocated to them? [ ]

8a. Does the hospital use a clinical priority grading system (e.g. NCEPPOD) for determining clinical priority in emergency surgery? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown

8b. If YES, which one? (please specify) ______________________________

8c. For the general emergency theatres is there a co-ordinator or other system for confirming that relevant investigations and resuscitation have been completed and the patient is 'fit' for theatre? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown

8d. Does this hospital have a hospital-wide transfusion policy for patients with major/massive blood loss? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown

9a. Do the operating theatres have a post-anaesthetic recovery area or room equipped and staffed for this purpose? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown

9b. If YES, is the recovery area available and staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown

9c. If NO, please specify its opening hours: ______________________________

9d. Are there clearly defined criteria in place for safe discharge of patients from the post operative recovery unit? (e.g. Warm, pain controlled, haemodynamic and respiratory stability) ______________________________

SPECIAL CARE AREAS

10a. Does the hospital have a critical care unit? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown
10b. If YES, please indicate how many beds the hospital has for each level of critical care?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuro</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10c. Is there an upper age limit for admission to critical care?  □ Yes  □ No  □ Unknown

10d. Is the Level 2 care available and staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?  □ Yes  □ No  □ Unknown

10e. If NO, please specify its opening hours:

10f. If there is more than one level 2 unit, which specialties have a specialty-specific Level 2 unit or area within a ward that care for the elderly (answers may be multiple)

- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Hand surgery
- General Surgery
- Vascular Surgery
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Plastic Surgery (excluding hand surgery)
- Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery
- Urology
- Gynaecology
- Other (please specify)

Where there is a single HDU, or for the main general HDU if there are also specialty-specific high dependency units:

10g. Which specialties are involved in patient management during the day?

- Surgical specialty only
- Intensivists/anaesthetic staff only
- Both surgeons and intensivists/anaesthetists
- Medicine for the elderly
10h. Which specialties are involved in patient management out of hours (17:00 - 07:59 & weekends)?

- Surgical speciality only
- Both surgeons and intensivists/anaesthetists
- Medicine for the elderly
- Intensivists/anaesthetic staff only

10i. If there is more than one Level 3 unit, which specialities have a specialty-specific Level 3 unit?

- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Otolaryngology
- Plastic Surgery (excluding hand surgery)
- Hand surgery
- Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery
- General Surgery
- Urology
- Vascular Surgery
- Gynaecology
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Other (please specify)

Where there is a Level 3 unit, or for the main general Level 3 unit if there are also specialty-specific Level 3 dependency units

10j. Is the Level 3 unit available and staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?

- Yes
- No
- Unknown

10k. If NO, please specify its opening hours

11. For patients requiring renal replacement therapy on ICU which of the following apply?

- Renal medicine on site
- Haemodialysis available elsewhere in hospital
- Haemofiltration available in ICU
- Haemodialysis available in ICU
- Patients with acute renal failure must be transferred to another hospital

12. Following NICE guidance, does the hospital have a formal policy for the recognition and management of acutely ill patients?

- Yes
- No
- Unknown

13. Does your hospital have an outreach team from Level 2/Level 3 for assessing patients?

- Yes
- No
- Unknown

14. If YES, when is the outreach facility available?

- 24 hours/7 days a week
- < 24 hours/7 days a week Please specify how many hours a day
- 24 hours on selected days Please specify how many days a week
- < 24 hours on selected days Please specify how many days a week
15a. Does this hospital run pre-anaesthetic or pre-admission assessment clinics? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown

15b. If YES, who runs these clinics? (please specify)

16a. Does your hospital have a policy for medical pre-assessment in patients above a particular age? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown

16b. If YES, what age? (please specify)

17. In general, are all required investigations performed during a single visit? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown

18a. Does your hospital have a specific age limit above which day surgery is precluded, regardless of comorbidities? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown

18b. If YES, what age is this?

19a. Does this hospital have written policies or protocols for assessing the nutrition status of patients? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown

19b. If YES, does this include the involvement of a dietician? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown

20. Does this hospital have a policy for assessing competence and comprehension of patients? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown

21. Does the Trust have clear guidelines for the assessment and consent procedures in those with reduced capacity? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown

22. Does this hospital have a mechanism in place for assessing the frailty in elderly patients? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown

23. Does this hospital have a specific agreed integrated multidisciplinary care plan for patients with FRACTURED NECK OF FEMUR? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown
24a. Which of the following imaging facilities does the hospital have, and when are they available?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Not available</th>
<th>Available 24 hours</th>
<th>Available during working hours and weekends</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plain x-ray imaging</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultrasound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CT scanner</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MRI scanner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Angiography</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Coronary angiography</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Acute coronary angioplasty</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

24b. Is there an interventional radiology service in your hospital?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown

24c. If YES, do the interventional radiologists offer:

☐ Vascular intervention only  ☐ Both vascular and non-vascular intervention
☐ Non-vascular intervention  ☐ Unknown

24d. If YES to 18b, when is the interventional service available?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:00 - 17:59</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:00 - 07:59</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

25a. Which of the following laboratory facilities are available on-site? (answers may be multiple)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Not available</th>
<th>Available 24 hours</th>
<th>Available &lt; 24 hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Routine haematology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Routine biochemistry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood transfusion laboratory</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coagulation measurements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
25b. If the blood TRANSFUSION laboratory is NOT ON-SITE how far away (miles) is the laboratory providing these services? 

25c. If the blood COAGULATION laboratory is NOT ON-SITE how far away (miles) is the laboratory providing these services? 

26a. Does the GENERAL SURGICAL DEPARTMENT have a unit protocol for a deep vein thrombosis/pulmonary embolus? 
   - Yes 
   - No 
   - Unknown 

26b. If YES, what does this comprise for a patient of normal risk? 
   - Low Molecular Weight Heparin 
   - Graduated elasticated compression stockings 
   - Mechanical devices (foot pump, calf stimulators etc) 

27a. Does your ORTHOPAEDIC DEPARTMENT have a unit protocol for prophylaxis against deep vein thrombosis/pulmonary embolus? 
   - Yes 
   - No 
   - Unknown 

27b. If YES, what does this comprise for a patient of normal risk? 
   - Low Molecular Weight Heparin 
   - Graduated elasticated compression stockings 
   - Mechanical devices (foot pump, calf stimulators etc) 

28. Does this hospital have a cross directorate policy on the avoidance of peri-operative hypothermia? 
   - Yes 
   - No 
   - Unknown 

29a. Are there funded consultant sessions for the medicine for the elderly care in surgical patients? 
   - Yes 
   - No 
   - Unknown 

29b. If YES, which specialites have these facilities? 
   - Cardiotoracic Surgery 
   - Neurosurgery 
   - Otolaryngology 
   - Plastic Surgery (excluding hand surgery) 
   - Hand Surgery 
   - Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery 
   - General Surgery 
   - Urology 
   - Vascular Surgery 
   - Gynaecology 
   - Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery 
   - Other (please specify)
POST OPERATIVE FACILITIES

30a. Does this hospital have an acute pain service?

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown

30b. If YES, are there designated specialised pain nurses for this service?

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown

30c. If YES to 30a, are there designated consultant sessions for this service?

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown

30d. If YES to 30a, is training provided to ward staff in pain assessment and management in the elderly?

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown

31a. Does this hospital have a Nutrition Team?

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown

31b. If YES, is this who is involved in this? (answers may be multiple)

☐ Consultant Surgeon  ☐ Dietician

☐ Consultant Physician  ☐ Other (please specify) [ ]

☐ Nurse Specialist

32. Does this hospital have ready access to specialists in palliative care?

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown

33a. Is there a formal multidisciplinary care team responsible for the care of post operative patients in any of the following specialties?

☐ General surgery  ☐ Orthopaedics (elective)

☐ Vascular surgery  ☐ Orthopaedics (trauma)

☐ Not applicable

33b. If YES, who is part of this?

☐ Ward nurses  ☐ Occupational therapy

☐ Surgeons  ☐ Social work

☐ Medicine for the elderly  ☐ Tissue viability nurse

☐ Physiotherapy  ☐ Discharge liaison nurse (or equivalent)

34. Does this hospital have access to beds in a geriatric orthopaedic rehabilitation unit or other intermediate care facility for the elderly?

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown

35. Does this hospital have a policy for discharge planning in elderly patients?

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown
36a. Does this hospital have any other policies for the care of elderly patients not already mentioned?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown

36b. If YES, please specify

AUDIT

37a. Does this hospital participate in regional or national audits of fractured neck of femur care e.g. College of Emergency Medicine?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown

37b. If YES, are the results of the above reviewed in a multidisciplinary forum?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown

38a. Does the hospital have a clinical governance committee?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown

38b. If YES, does the clinical governance committee receive evidence of meetings taking place?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown

39. Does the Medical Director have evidence that the clinical governance systems in the Trust ensure that all consultants are involved in clinical audit?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown

40. Does the Medical Director have evidence that the critical incident systems in the Trust are included in clinical audit?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown

41. Are all critical incidents forwarded to incident reporting services (e.g. National Reporting & Learning System (NPSA))?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown

42. Does the hospital have an on-site autopsy active mortuary?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE