Measuring the Units
A review of patients who died with alcohol-related liver disease
The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) endorsed definition of clinical audit is: ‘A quality improvement process that seeks to improve patient care and outcomes through systematic review of care against explicit criteria and the implementation of change. Aspects of the structure, processes, and outcomes of care are selected and systematically evaluated against explicit criteria. Where indicated, changes are implemented at an individual, team, or service level and further monitoring is used to confirm improvement in healthcare delivery’. Please refer to the Health Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) [www.hqip.org.uk](http://www.hqip.org.uk) for more details.

**NCEPOD** – “Improving the quality of medical and surgical care”. The overall aim of NCEPOD is to assist in maintaining and improving standards of medical and surgical care.

This is achieved by undertaking confidential questionnaire and peer review based studies, the findings of which are disseminated back to the medical profession and wider audience in the form of a report. Each NCEPOD report makes a number of key recommendations related to both clinical and organisational aspects of care. It is only when these recommendations are implemented that NCEPOD realises its function and overall aim.

The purpose of the NCEPOD audit pack is to provide clinicians with a tool to carry out local audits based on the findings of specific NCEPOD reports. Where appropriate report recommendations have been adapted to become more relevant to front line clinicians and casenote review.