

Acute Limb Ischaemia - Organisational Questionnaires: Spoke hospitals

A. Introduction

What is this study about?

To explore current care pathways for patients with acute limb ischaemia (ALI); identify remediable clinical and organisational factors that can improve the delivery and quality of the required care.

Inclusions

This questionnaire should be completed for each hospital that is defined as a "spoke" hospital, generally an acute hospital, where patients with acute limb ischaemia may present eg to an emergency department and be referred/ transferred to a specialist "hub" hospital for treatment.

Please note that patients with acute limb ischaemia through trauma are excluded from the case review part of the study. This questionnaire is also focused on the vascular referral pathway not the trauma pathway

Who should complete this questionnaire?

This questionnaire should be completed by the NCEPOD Local Reporter with input from senior clinicians in Emergency/ Acute medicine who would have the knowledge to complete it. The questionnaire can be assigned by the Local Reporter to others to complete for designated periods of time. Please see: https://www.ncepod.org.uk/Online_Questionnaires.html for more information about the online questionnaire system or email ali@ncepod.org.uk if any assistance is required

ONE QUESTIONNAIRE SHOULD BE COMPLETED FOR EACH "SPOKE" HOSPITAL IN THE TRUST - EACH HOSPITAL THAT TRANSFERS PATIENTS TO A VASCULAR HUB

Questions or help

Further information regarding this study can be found here: <https://www.ncepod.org.uk/ali.html>

If you have any queries about this study or this questionnaire, please contact: ali@ncepod.org.uk or telephone 0207 251 9060.

About NCEPOD

The National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NCEPOD) reviews healthcare practice by undertaking confidential studies, and make recommendations to improve the quality of the delivery of care for healthcare professionals and policymakers to implement. Data to inform the studies are collected from NHS hospitals and Independent sector hospitals across England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Offshore Islands. NCEPOD are supported by a wide range of bodies and the Steering Group consists of members from the Medical Royal Colleges and Specialist Associations, as well as observers from The Coroners Society of England and Wales, and the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP).

This study was commissioned by The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) as part of the Clinical Outcome Review Programme

B. Hospital details

1. What population size does this hospital cover?

- ☐ < 400,000 people ☐ 400,000 - <800,000 people ☐ > 800,000 people

If not listed above, please specify here...

2. How many in-patient beds are there in this hospital?

- ☐ <50 ☐ >50-100 ☐ >100-250 ☐ >250-500
☐ >500-750 ☐ >750-1000 ☐ >1000-1500 ☐ >1500-2000
☐ >2000

If not listed above, please specify here...

3a. Does this hospital have an Emergency Department/ Urgent Treatment Centre?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

3b. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:

What hours is the Emergency Department/ Urgent Treatment Centre open?

- ☐ 24/7 ☐ 8am-6pm ☐ 8am-8pm ☐ 8am-10pm
☐ 7am-10pm

If not listed above, please specify here...

4a. Do you offer any vascular services at this hospital?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

4b. If answered "Yes" to [4a] then:

If YES, please select the vascular services provided by this hospital:

Answers may be multiple, please select all that apply

- ☐ Vascular surgery outpatient clinics
☐ Inpatient vascular surgery reviews
☐ Vascular Clinical Nurse Specialist -led clinic
☐ Limited vascular surgical procedures
☐ Limited vascular interventional radiological procedures
☐ Post-procedure care eg. rehabilitation

Please specify any additional options here...

1a. For patients presenting to this hospital with suspected acute limb ischaemia, how many different specialist vascular "Hub" hospitals does this hospital refer patients to for treatment?

☐ 1

☐ 2

☐ 3

☐ 4 or more

If not listed above, please specify here...

1b. If answered "1", "2", "3" or "4 or more" to [1a] then:

Please name all the vascular specialist hub hospitals that patients are referred/transferred to from this hospital?

2a. If answered "2", "3" or "4 or more" to [1a] then:

Please describe the variation in referrals to different vascular "Hub" hospitals:

☐ Referrals to specific "hub" hospitals are planned in advance

☐ Decision to refer to a specific hospital is based on capacity/acceptance by a vascular "hub" hospital

Please specify any additional options here...

2b. If answered "Referrals to specific "hub" hospitals are planned in advance" to [2a] then: Please provide details of the planned variation in referral to different vascular "Hub" hospitals:

e.g. Depending on severity of patient's condition: e.g. immediate & urgent cases only or timing of presentation/ referral request

3a. Is there any guidance available that covers patients presenting to this hospital with suspected acute limb ischaemia?

eg triage, assessment, initial care and transfer of patients

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

3b. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:

Does the guidance (eg. pathway/protocol/ guideline) for acute limb ischaemia (ALI) include:

- ☐ A protocol/ SOP for the assessment and recognition of acute limb ischaemia
- ☐ Preferred imaging modalities for patients with symptoms of acute limb ischaemia
- ☐ Inclusion of "Rutherford" or other severity scale
- ☐ A protocol / SOP covering the process of referring the patient to the Hub hospital
- ☐ Referrals to the Hub hospital via defined vascular surgical single point of contact
- ☐ A Transfer protocol covering patient transfer to the Hub hospital
- ☐ Category/ urgency of ambulance transfer
- ☐ Recommended timeframes for completion of required steps on the pathway
- ☐ A protocol/ SOP covering medical treatment of patients who are not transferred
- ☐ A protocol / SOP covering the process of repatriating the patient to this hospital following treatment at
- ☐ A protocol/ SOP covering the discharge of repatriated patients ensuring all necessary onward referrals
- ☐ None of these
- ☐ Unknown

Please specify any additional options here...

**3c. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:
Is use of this guidance audited?**

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

3d. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:

Is there a dedicated guideline/ pathway/ protocol specifically for acute limb ischaemia?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

**3e. If answered "Yes" to [3d] then:
Please give details:**

4. If answered "Yes" to [3a] then:

Does the Hub hospital input into any of the guidance / pathway/ protocols for acute limb ischaemia?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

5a. What is the distance to your nearest Hub hospital?

- ☐ < 1 mile ☐ 1 - 2 miles ☐ >2 - 3 miles ☐ >3 - 5 miles
☐ >5 - 10 miles ☐ >10 - 15 miles ☐ >15 - 20 miles ☐ >20 - 30 miles
☐ >30 - 50 miles ☐ > 50 miles

If not listed above, please specify here...

5b. What is the average travel time from the nearest Hub hospital (in the middle of the day in a blue light ambulance)?

- ☐ <15 minutes ☐ >15-20 minutes ☐ > 20-30 minutes ☐ >30-45 minutes
☐ >45-60 minutes ☐ >60-90 minutes ☐ >90-120 minutes ☐ >120 minutes

If not listed above, please specify here...

6a. Is there a protocol/SOP covering repatriation of patients from a Hub hospital following treatment for acute limb ischaemia?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

6b. If answered "Yes" to [6a] then:

Does this cover what information/ support patients receive at discharge from hospital?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

7. Please select all of the statements that apply to this vascular network in relation to record sharing for patients treated for acute limb ischaemia:

Answers may be multiple, please select all that apply

- ☐ This Spoke hospital and the Hub Hospital that it sends referrals to are on the same electronic patient r
- ☐ This Spoke hospital and the Hub Hospital that it sends referrals to are on the same electronic imaging
- ☐ The patient case note records sent to the Hub hospital are primarily on paper and travel with the patie
- ☐ Patient case note records are normally emailed to the Hub hospital
- ☐ This Spoke hospital routinely shares electronic patient case note records with primary care services in
- ☐ When a patient is discharged from the Hub hospital, the discharge summary with be shared with this h
- ☐ For patients who are repatriated from the Hub hospital, case notes from the Hub are shared with this h
- ☐ None of these
- ☐ Unknown

Please specify any additional options here...

8a. Does this hospital contribute to any vascular network-wide QI projects or other learning programmes regarding patients with acute limb ischaemia?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unknown

8b. If answered "Yes" to [8a] then:

Please provide details:

D. Comments

- 1. If you have any comments regarding how the care of patients with acute limb ischaemia could be improved, or where the barriers to best practice exist, please write in the box provided:**

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Your contribution will help inform recommendations in the final report due in November 2025