



**To: All UK Anaesthetists**

12 November 2009

## **PERI-OPERATIVE CARE STUDY**

Dear colleague

The National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NCEPOD) is an independent organisation that aims to review clinical practice in the NHS and independent sector and to make recommendations to improve quality care.

We are currently undertaking a national study to examine the peri-operative care of patients undergoing inpatient surgery. This work is supported by The Intensive Care Society, the Royal College of Anaesthetists, and the Royal College of Surgeons. Day case, obstetric, cardiac, transplant and neurosurgical patients, will be excluded. We will collect data on all other surgical activity, elective and emergency, occurring over a one-week period in the first quarter of 2010. Four surgical groups will be included: high risk surgical patients and high risk patients (i.e. due to age) some of whom will be alive, and others deceased, as well as low risk surgical and low risk patients who are deceased. A copy of the protocol is available to download from our website <http://www.ncepod.org.uk/poc.htm>

The study has been advertised in our quarterly newsletters, which reach your Medical Director, but we thought we should write to you directly seeking your help in two ways. Firstly, we will be asking anaesthetists to complete a 1-page form for all cases they anaesthetise in the chosen week. Secondly, we are seeking volunteers to become a member of a multidisciplinary team of clinical advisors whose role it is to review the casenotes of a select group of patients in the study.

Advisors will be required to attend a training day. Meetings will commence in July 2010 and last approximately 8 months. All meetings will be held in central London as we are constrained by the requirement to maintain confidentiality by holding patient notes on our own premises only but NCEPOD will reimburse all expenses for attendance at review meetings.

The quality of the report we generate, and the potential to improve patient care, is very much dependent on the individual cooperation of colleagues such as you. Please see <http://www.ncepod.org.uk/about.htm> for information on CPD accreditation, and our work being mandated by the Department of Health and the GMC. In addition, Section 251 approval for performing this study without patient consent, and NRES agreement that no additional ethical approval is needed for our work.

If you would like to apply to become a clinical advisor, or if you have any questions, please email us at [periopcare@ncepod.org.uk](mailto:periopcare@ncepod.org.uk) or phone Karen Protopapa, researcher, on 020 7631 3444. The results of previous studies and more general information about NCEPOD are available via <http://www.ncepod.org.uk/index.htm>

**NATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL ENQUIRY INTO PATIENT OUTCOME AND DEATH**

Faculty of Public Health of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK • Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland  
Association of Surgeons of Great Britain & Ireland • Royal College of Anaesthetists • Royal College of Radiologists • Royal College of Ophthalmologists  
Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England • Royal College of Surgeons of England • Royal College of Pathologists  
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We would like to thank you for your support with this study and hope that you will also consider applying to join our team of clinical advisors.


Yours sincerely



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Intensivist



Alex Goodwin  
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Researcher



Neil Smith  
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