



National Cardiac Arrest Audit

Improving patient outcome following cardiac arrest...

... learning from experience for the benefit of future patients

Ensuring a high quality resuscitation service

Patients who suffer a cardiac arrest in hospital should receive the highest quality resuscitation and post-resuscitation care. To this end, the government requires NHS hospitals to provide an effective resuscitation service, and to ensure clinical practice in this area is regularly measured.

To help do this, this hospital is regularly measured by two health charities working together. These charities are the Resuscitation Council (UK) and ICNARC (Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre).

Information (or data) on cardiac arrests which happen in this hospital, and which are dealt with by the Resuscitation Team, are collected by hospital staff. This information is then sent to ICNARC who confidentially analyses the information on behalf of the two charities and sends the results back to the hospital. The Resuscitation Team/Committee in this hospital can use these results to improve the

care they provide to their patients. This process is called an audit. This particular audit is called the National Cardiac Arrest Audit (NCAA).

Hospitals in the UK voluntarily sign up to participate in the National Cardiac Arrest Audit. Those that take part are complying with Government guidelines and are keen to improve their standards of care.

What information is collected about patients?

- **Patient details** – NHS Number, date of birth, sex, ethnicity;
- **Details of admission/visit to the hospital** – date of admission, reason for being in the hospital (e.g. surgery, outpatient, visitor);
- **Details of cardiac arrest** – date and time, location of patient while having cardiac arrest, type of heart rhythm during cardiac arrest;
- **Details of outcome** – reason why resuscitation stopped, whether patient survived cardiac arrest, where patient went following cardiac arrest, date of discharge from hospital or date and time of death.

No names or addresses are collected.

Who collects this information?

A trained member of staff from this hospital, usually a Resuscitation Officer, collects the information about each cardiac arrest dealt with by the Resuscitation Team. They then enter the information onto a secure website which can only be accessed using a password.

How is the information used?

The information collected by the Resuscitation Officer in each hospital is submitted to ICNARC. ICNARC analyses data from hospitals across the UK. When they have finished the analysis, they provide a confidential report to each hospital showing how they compare to similar hospitals in terms of the number of cardiac arrests and the outcomes of the resuscitation care provided.

How secure is the information?

ICNARC has a very secure computer system and a strict information security policy that has been approved by the National Information Governance Board (NIGB) (a statutory body established by the Department of Health's Health & Social Care Act 2008). As part of this policy at ICNARC, all staff sign a contract agreeing to keep data secure and confidential. ICNARC is also registered under the Data Protection Act.

Can patients refuse to give this information?

Yes. If you don't want information about your care to be used, you have the right to request that it isn't sent to ICNARC. If, as relatives, you are concerned that the patient would not want this information used (but the patient is unable to say so themselves), you should discuss this with a member of the Resuscitation Team in this hospital. This will not affect the care and treatment the patient is given.

If you have any concerns about how information on patients is used for NCAA, please speak to a member of the Resuscitation Team in this hospital.

National Information Governance Board (NIGB) Approval number: ECC 2-06(n)/2009