



National Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audit Continuation and restart of data collection

The Audit project team is pleased to announce that the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) have awarded the contract for the continuation of the National Oesophago-gastric Cancer Audit. The Audit has been funded for another three years, with an expectation for it to continue beyond this period.

The Audit will be undertaken as a partnership between the Association of Upper Gastrointestinal Surgeons of Great Britain & Ireland (AUGIS), British Society of Gastroenterologists (BSG), The Clinical Effectiveness Unit at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and Clinical Audit Support Unit (CASU) of the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Activities in the first year of the Audit

The Audit will continue to examine the quality of care received by patients with oesophago-gastric cancer in England and Wales. This will be based primarily on prospectively collected patient data supplemented with data from nationally available datasets.

In the first year, the Audit will restart the prospective data collection and will use the dataset from the first Audit. This will allow for results to be published on a longitudinal basis and so highlight areas where care has improved and where changes are still needed.

The Audit will also undertake an organisational audit of Cancer Networks and NHS acute trusts. The organisational audit will focus on two key issues: (1) referral pathways as defined by the organisation of diagnostic services and GP referral policies, and (2) the organisation of palliative services, which will cover hospital, hospice and community services in both the NHS and independent sectors. Both will aid the interpretation of the patient-level data on process and outcomes. We will coordinate this organisational audit to the National Peer-Review process so that the two are complementary and we avoid duplication of effort.

Activities in the second and third year of the Audit

In the second year, there will be some changes to the Audit. First, it will be extended to include patients diagnosed with high-grade dysplasia of the Barrett's oesophagus (HGD). The Audit will evaluate the management of HGD within Cancer Networks and describe treatments undergone and subsequent outcomes. The range of treatments available for patients with HGD is increasing but whether access to these treatments is uniform across Networks is unknown.

Another change to the Audit will be to examine the process of care around the time of referral in more detail. The first Audit highlighted variation between Cancer Networks in the proportion of O-G cancer patients who were diagnosed after an emergency admission and that these patients were less likely to have curative treatment.

Finally, the Audit will improve its collection of data on endoscopic/radiological palliative therapies and the use of palliative oncology. These areas of care were highlighted in the first Audit as varying between Cancer Networks and an objective of the continued Audit will be to determine whether these differences have an effect on patient well-being.

Audit Annual Reports

The Audit will continue to publish audit results in a series of Annual Reports. The First Annual Report will describe the results of the organisational audit and the longer term outcomes of patients diagnosed in the original Audit data collection period. The publication date for the First Annual Report will be June 2012.

The Second and Third Annual Reports will contain the results related to the processes and outcomes of care of patients diagnosed after the restart of the Audit.

The Second Annual Report will include data on patients diagnosed between 1 April 2011 and 1 April 2012. The data submission deadline for this report will be Monday 1 October 2012. The publication date for the Second Annual Report will be June 2013.

The Third Annual Report will include data on patients diagnosed between 1 April 2011 and 1 April 2013. The data submission deadline for this report will be Tuesday 1 October 2013. The publication date for the Third Annual Report will be May 2014.

Which patients are included in the audit?

The Audit covers all patients in England and Wales with a diagnosis of invasive epithelial cancer of the oesophagus, O-G junction or stomach. The Audit will include patients diagnosed after 1 April 2011.

Patients with high-grade dysplasia of the Barrett's oesophagus will be included from April 2012.

What do Trusts need to do

Existing users will need to renew their password and log-on details for the OG data collection system. To renew passwords please call the HelpDesk (0845 300 6016, option 2). For those trust that wish to add new users you will be required to complete a new Data User Certificate, adding the details of the new users and getting it signed by the your Caldicott Guardian. Data User Certificates are available to download from the Audit website.

Trusts will be able to enter data on patients (diagnosed after 1 April 2011) from June 2011.

Contact Details

If you would like further information about the audit, please visit the audit website:
<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/og>

Alternatively, please contact:

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