

National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme

Project Summary

National Hip Fracture Database (NHFD)

Purpose

NHFD aims to use audit and standards to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of hip fracture care and rehabilitation; to promote secondary prevention through the improved treatment of osteoporosis, and programmes to prevent further falls; and to provide a platform for large-scale clinical trials on hip fracture care.

Methodology

The basic methodology of NHFD has been derived from that of the highly successful Myocardial Ischaemia National Audit Project (MINAP), retaining its key features of web based data input, a central analytic function, and the distribution by web of continuous feedback to participating units. This approach, backed up by the use of Business Objects software in the preparation of reports, has resulted in the rapid evolution within NHFD of broadly reliable data handling, analysis and reporting.

Key quality indicators

NHFD, in conjunction with the six standards outlined in the Blue Book, uses the synergy of audit, standards and feedback to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of hip fracture care, and to promote secondary prevention measures of proven value:

- Prompt admission to orthopaedic care will ensure access to early preoperative assessment; increase the likelihood of early surgery; and also serve to diminish uncertainty and anxiety for patients and their relatives
- Early surgery – within 48 hours – will minimise dependency and discomfort and facilitate early rehabilitation; and will reduce length of stay and costs both directly (by reducing high-cost pre-operative dependency) and indirectly (through avoidance of the extra day added to length of stay by every additional 8 hr delay beyond 48 hours)
- Avoidance of pressure ulcers will diminish pain and suffering and also facilitate rehabilitation and reduce length of stay (a full-thickness heel ulcer – preventable by meticulous pressure area care – can cause more pain and disability six weeks postoperatively than the fracture itself)
- Acute orthogeriatric medical care will reduce preoperative delay and, by the early identification and management of medical complications, accelerate rehabilitation and reduce length of stay
- A rigorous approach to assessment and treatment of osteoporosis with bone protection therapy will in the medium term reduce the risk of future fractures, including hip fracture
- Similarly, effective falls assessment and interventions, by reducing the likelihood of falls, will reduce the risk of further fracture.

Data collection schedule

Continuous.

Is the Audit Process or Outcome focused?

NHFD provides details of Casemix, Process and Outcomes.

Who is involved in the audit?

The most relevant clinical specialties – orthopaedic surgery and geriatric medicine – are strongly represented on the NHFD Executive (both Co-Chairs, and the majority of the Executive membership); and, as sponsors of the NHFD, their respective professional organisations, the British Orthopaedic Association and the British Geriatrics Society, have encouraged participation in NHFD by their membership, through their meetings and through their publications and communications networks, and by promoting joint instructional sessions on collaborative ortho-geriatric care for the trainees. The Royal College of Nurses; The Royal College of General Practitioners; Help the Aged/Age Concern and the National Osteoporosis are also represented on the Executive Board.

Who are the main stakeholders?

- Age Anaesthesia Association
- Derby University
- Faculty of Public Health
- National Osteoporosis Society
- NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement
- National Institute for Health & Clinical Excellence
- Royal College of Surgeons
- Royal College of Physicians
- Royal College of Nurses
- Royal College of General Practitioners
- Society of Endocrinology

Date of the next Annual Report and outline content

June 2010. It will provide details of Casemix, Process and Outcomes for a data time-slice of 31st March 2009 to 1st April 2010

More information: <http://www.nhfd.co.uk/>