



National Audit of Dementia (Care in general hospitals)

February 2010 / Issue 4

UPDATE ON THE AUDIT...

Thank you to all hospitals that have registered for the audit. We have now reached 95% participation of Trusts across England and Wales!

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Thank you to all of you who took the time to contact us with your views and queries. Your feedback is very important in ensuring the guidance we provide you with, are as useful as possible.

You will receive the final core audit tools and guidance next week— we have made amendments to the preview versions (circulated 15th January) for greater clarity where possible. We will continue to update you throughout the audit about frequently asked questions.

Please inform us of any changes to your contact details so we can update our records.

YOU CAN START PREPARING FOR THE AUDIT NOW!

Here are tips on what you could do to prepare for the start date of the audit

Core audit:

- ◆ Read the guidance notes
- ◆ Identify casenotes for the Casenote audit and number them according to the guidance document
- ◆ Choose/contact other members of the team that will support the program
- ◆ Hold a meeting with the project team and circulate the tools
- ◆ If you feel it will save you time, you can start completing the Organisational audit on paper copy and submit data online from the start date

Enhanced audit:

- ◆ Publicise the audit internally (local newsletters, intra-net systems, bulleting boards, open meetings) this may help increase awareness and increase staff participation.
- ◆ Enhanced tools and guidance will be e-mailed to audit leads in March.

COMMUNICATION

Each participating hospital has nominated one lead contact. Additional contacts have been included in our mailing list and will receive updates on the audit by e-mail.

It is important that the main audit lead is identified to all involved in the audit, as he/she will be the main contact of the NAD project team. This will facilitate the running of the audit and avoid duplicate queries or data return.

If you don't know who your main audit lead is or would like to add further e-mail contacts, please get in touch with us.

INFORMATION FOR AUDIT LEADS

You will receive:

- ◆ A letter with your hospital's username and password
- ◆ Hard copies of the final core tools
- ◆ Hard copy of the final core guidance document
- ◆ A copy of the Programme Management document

This information will be posted to **main audit leads only**, who should then circulate information to all involved in the audit. Additional contacts will be notified via e-mail when the Pack has been sent.

For **hospitals participating in the enhanced audit**, separate packs will be sent to the main audit lead with an information sheet, publicity material (flyers and posters) and carer/patient questionnaires to be distributed in the participating wards.

Electronic copies of enhanced tools and guidance will be e-mailed to all audit leads by the beginning of March and the final hard copy tools will be posted to the main audit lead by mid March.

HOW WILL DATA BE ENTERED?

ALL data* will be completed and returned online using SNAP. Audit leads will be able to access our password protected data entry page from the **start date of the audit** (see timeline on p5). The data entry page is https, the Royal College of Psychiatrists has a bank level end-to-end SSL/Transport Layer Security with 128 bit encryption.

The electronic tools (questionnaires and checklists) have a save option to give you flexibility in returning data (we recommend that you complete and submit each form before moving on to the next) Alternatively you can complete the tools on paper copies and enter data in one go.

*except carer/patient questionnaires (enhanced audit only)

FAQ

What should I do if the hospital doesn't reach the minimum of 40 consecutive casenotes for the Casenote Audit in the set period (1 Sept 09 - 28 Feb 10)?

Work backwards from the start of the period, September 2009, back to June 2009, **newest casenotes first**. If the minimum of 40 is still not reached, please contact the Project Team. Diagnosis of dementia may appear in primary coding but is more likely to be secondary or subsidiary code, it may also appear in current history. All casenotes with any of the ICD10 codes listed are eligible.

DEMENTIA IN THE NEWS

The admission of dementia patients to general hospitals has been identified as a time of high risk and can often lead to deterioration in health. Improving the consistency and standards of care that dementia patients receive in general hospitals has been nationally recognised as high priority (Objective 8, [National Dementia Strategy](#)).

The latest research from the Alzheimer's Society, [Counting the Cost report](#), shows us that care provision for people with dementia will be central to how hospitals plan their services. The report estimates that dementia will affect over 940,000 people in the next 10 years in the UK.

Articles referring to dementia care have been published in the main newspapers in the UK ([The Independent](#), [The Times](#), [The Guardian](#)). The recent [National Audit Office report](#) also draws attention to the urgent need to improve dementia services.

SHARING INFORMATION

This is the first national audit looking into the care received by people with dementia in a general hospital setting, and your participation is vital in improving the quality of the care for those affected by dementia.

If you have any local news and information that you would like to share with other hospitals in the audit, please e-mail it to us and we will feature it in the next issue. Our newsletters will be sent approximately every 2 months. If you wish to access our previous newsletters, please visit our website.

A list of participating hospitals in the audit will be available on our website from march 2010

DISCUSSION GROUP

NAD-Chat, our e-mail discussion group, is about to be launched.

The discussion group aims at providing a space to encourage discussion between participants and we hope it will provide an ongoing forum for networking and sharing best practice, raising questions and reflecting on recommendations for the future. **NAD-Chat** is open to all staff participating in data collection at hospital or ward level.

To join, please e-mail us at the address below with **'JOIN'** in the subject line:
nad@cru.rcpsych.ac.uk

TIMELINE

Tool	Start date	Deadline for data return
Core Audit		
Organisational Audit	15 March 2010	14 May 2010
Casenote Audit	22 March 2010	16 July 2010
Enhanced Audit		
Environmental Audit	1 April 2010	11 June 2010
Ward Organisational Audit	1 April 2010	28 May 2010
Carer/ patient questionnaire	1 April 2010	13 August 2010
Staff questionnaire	1 April 2010	16 July 2010
Observation training	From October 2010	N/A
Observation module	From October 2010	February 2011

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR CONTACT DETAILS?

Project leads: The nominated audit lead will be our key point of contact throughout. If you have changed your project lead, mailing address, telephone number, are no longer leading the project, please let us know as soon as possible so we can keep our records up to date.

If you wish to **add** any other contacts, who will be involved in the audit, please send us their details and we will add them to our e-mail list.

CONTACTING THE PROJECT TEAM...

By post

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