

# Sprint National Audit Projects: SNAP-1 in 2014

Dr E Walker<sup>1</sup> and Dr R Moonesinghe<sup>2</sup>

Trainee Lead for SNAP-1<sup>1</sup> and National Lead for SNAP-1; Board member, HSRC<sup>2</sup>

The Sprint National Audit Project is an exciting new initiative that we plan to run for the first time in early 2014. It is a particularly important project as we hope that the data collection will be managed predominantly by trainees and will involve hospitals throughout the UK.

The aim of the Sprint National Audit Projects (SNAPs) will be to provide a 'snapshot' of clinical activity in an area of clinical interest to patients, on an annual basis. It is the intention that the initial studies will be 'service evaluations' rather than audits, but, if successful, there may be more scope to repeat these studies, according to a traditional 'evaluate – improve – re-audit' quality improvement model. They will be quite different to the highly successful National Audit Projects or NAPs: the NAPs have tended to be long projects (usually one year) aimed at identifying rare but potentially catastrophic complications of our practice; the SNAPs will be short, 'snapshot' evaluations of activity and patient centred outcomes which should be important to both patients and anaesthetists. We are currently seeking ethics approval for the first SNAP and the RCoA has agreed to support it financially.

## Purpose

SNAP-1 will be a pragmatic one-week evaluation of patient reported outcome after anaesthesia; specifically, patient satisfaction and patient reported awareness. These areas have been chosen for a number of reasons:

## Patient satisfaction

As part of a portfolio of projects linked to the Health Services Research Centre (HSRC) a systematic review of patient satisfaction measures in anaesthesia has been completed and published. On the basis of this we have selected a validated patient satisfaction measure to use in the first SNAP. A single-centre pilot study of implementation has already been completed at University College Hospital. The data collected during this SNAP will aim to establish a national benchmark for patient satisfaction after anaesthesia; which in the future can be used by individual hospitals to evaluate their service.

## Awareness

This part of the project will complement the 5th National Audit Project (NAP5), investigating awareness under anaesthesia. Our aspiration is that all patients undergoing surgery in that week will be questioned using a modified Brice questionnaire (based on that used in the BAG-RECALL study) in an effort to establish an estimate of accidental awareness under general anaesthesia in the UK population.

## How will we do it? We need your help!

Every anaesthetic department in the UK should now have a Quality Audit and Research Co-ordinator (QuARC). The QuARCs will be asked to co-ordinate the data collection in their hospitals but will invite local trainees to take a pivotal role in the data collection, ensuring the highest possible rate of data capture. All QuARCs and trainee

leads in each hospital will be named as collaborators in any publications that result from the SNAP.

All adult ( $\geq 18$  years) patients undergoing any type of surgery in an operating theatre (excluding obstetrics) will be invited to complete paper forms, either on the day of surgery (for day-case patients) or on the first postoperative day (for inpatient surgery). Demographic data and information detailing specific aspects of perioperative care will be completed by the anaesthetist responsible for each patient. Local QuARCs/trainees will then enter the data into a secure online database, and screen freetext responses for cases of potential awareness. These cases will then be reviewed by expert panels, who will decide whether they demonstrate evidence of true awareness or not. We will be recommending that QuARCs arrange appropriate follow up for all identified cases.

We really hope that every hospital in the UK supports SNAP-1. If you would like any further information or have any questions about the project please see the HSRC website for further details at:

[www.niaa-hsrc.org.uk/SNAPs](http://www.niaa-hsrc.org.uk/SNAPs)