

Quality & Safety Committee News - May 2016

Welcome to the 2nd QS Newsletter of 2016

The Quality & Safety Advisory (QSA) committee is a standing committee of college whose overall aims are

- To promote and maintain a culture of patient safety
- To provide leadership for patient safety
- To provide timely information to support patient safety

In this edition of our newsletter we include important information on:

- **National Anaesthesia Activity Audit 2013**
- **European Board of Anaesthesiology (EBA) Patient Safety Recommendations**
- **Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group (SALG) Patient Safety Updates**
- **Recruitment of local Clinical Leads for Safety & Quality (CLSQ's)**
- **National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures (NatSSIPs)**

National Anaesthesia Activity Audit 2013

The first annual report on anaesthesia activity has been published in May 2016. This joint project between the National Clinical Programme for Anaesthesia and the College of Anaesthetists, is led by Dr John Cahill and provides valuable information of the number of anaesthetics administered nationally (234,441 in 2013 !)

The report can be viewed by following the link: hse.ie/anaesthesia and clicking on publications.

The report notes that the ASA status is not recorded in 34% of cases and it also expresses concern that the emergency/elective status is not always accurately recorded. The information in these annual activity reports provides a valuable denominator against which adverse events could be measured. It is very important therefore that we have accurate classification of ASA status and we would encourage all colleagues and Anaesthesia Departments to strive to achieve 100% compliance in recording ASA status and emergency/elective nature.

EBA Patient Safety Recommendations

The European Board of Anaesthesia recently published their Patient Safety Recommendations. You are encouraged to read them and share with your colleagues. They can be viewed by following the link.

<http://www.eba-uems.eu/PS/PS.html>

Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group (SALG) Patient Safety Updates

The Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group (SALG) in the UK regularly publish Patient Safety Updates based primarily on adverse events reported to them. The latest update can now be viewed by following the link on the CAI website (***Safety - Patient Safety Updates***). In addition to statistics on the number and nature of reported incidents the update includes clinical vignettes as reported by anaesthetists. The latest update highlights a number of cases of aspiration of gastric contents which serve as a timely reminder to assess risk of aspiration when choosing airway management strategy and also to check that all equipment is in place and fully functioning.

Recruitment of Clinical Leads for Safety & Quality (CLSQ)

In order to build a national Anaesthesia Safety Network we are asking each Department of Anaesthesia to nominate a clinical lead for safety and quality (CLSQ). The purpose of this role is firstly to ensure that information and safety initiatives from CAI Q&S committee are communicated to all within the department. The CLSQ will also encourage reporting of safety concerns/near misses and feed these back (anonymised) to the Quality & Safety Committee. The objective is to develop a system whereby safety concerns and learning from events and near misses can be shared in a structured way with colleagues throughout the country. If you have an interest in this role or would like to explore further contact Quality & Safety Committee chair Gerry Fitzpatrick at **safety@coa.ie**.

National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures (NatSSIPs) (UK)

NHS England have recently published National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures which should be of interest to CAI members and fellows.

The [National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures \(NatSSIPs\)](#) aim to reduce the number of patient safety incidents related to invasive procedures in which surgical Never Events could occur. These new standards set out broad principles of safe practice and advise healthcare professionals on how they can implement best practice, such as through a series of standardised safety checks and education and training. The NatSSIPs contain 13 key standards which cover all aspects of the patient journey throughout an invasive procedure, ensuring safety checks are performed by the team providing care at every critical step in the pathway.

And Finally....

I hope you all have a great summer and some well deserved rest and relaxation. Enjoy the good weather while it lasts and Keep Safe ! If you have any comments or questions in relation to the above or indeed to any matter related to safety or quality please contact us at **safety@coa.ie**

Gerry Fitzpatrick

Chair Quality & Safety Advisory Committee CAI