

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF ANAESTHETISTS

## 4TH NATIONAL AUDIT PROJECT (NAP4)

# Major Complications of Airway Management in the UK

NAP4 will run from 1 September 2008 – 31 August 2009

A one year prospective audit to determine the frequency of major airway complications in all NHS hospitals. We aim to receive reports of all **major complications of airway management that lead to patient harm**. The project covers adults and children undergoing anaesthesia, and also during care in intensive care and the emergency department.

**PHASE 1:** a snapshot audit in September 2008 of all anaesthetic activity.

**PHASE 2:** a year-long case reporting period (1 September 2008 – 31 August 2009).

### Inclusion criteria

- Death or brain damage
- Emergency surgical airway or needle cricothyroidotomy
- Unanticipated ICU admission: only where the complications of airway management are the cause of admission, or lead to an adverse outcome

In order for the project to be achievable we need to focus only on those cases with a **poor outcome that is attributable to airway management**.

### Reporting process

Anyone can report an event by emailing [tcook@rcoa.ac.uk](mailto:tcook@rcoa.ac.uk). Send: 1) your name and contact details; 2) hospital name; 3) date of event. **SEND NO PATIENT IDENTIFYING DETAILS!**

Cases will be logged. The local reporter in your hospital will then be contacted and further details reported to a secure, protected website run by DAS. The project has no interest in individuals. Separation of data reported to RCoA and DAS will **ensure patient and clinician anonymity**. Events will be reviewed for learning points.

### Additional information

Further more detailed information on the project can be found on either the DAS or RCoA websites ([www.das.uk.com/natauditproject](http://www.das.uk.com/natauditproject)) ([www.rcoa.ac.uk](http://www.rcoa.ac.uk)) or directly from Tim Cook ([tcook@rcoa.ac.uk](mailto:tcook@rcoa.ac.uk)) or Nick Woodall ([nicholas.woodall@nnuh.nhs.uk](mailto:nicholas.woodall@nnuh.nhs.uk)), co-leads for the project.

**YOUR LOCAL REPORTER IS .....**



### Approvals and endorsements:

The project process has been approved by the National Research Ethics Service and by the Department of Health (Patient Information Advisory Group). It is being performed in partnership with the Difficult Airway Society (DAS) and is partly funded by DAS and the National Patient Safety Agency.

NAP4 is endorsed or supported by the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland, Association for Peri-Operative Practice, Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists, College of Emergency Medicine, College of Operating Department Practitioners, Intensive Care Society, Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre, Obstetric Anaesthetists Association, Paediatric Intensive Care Society, Paediatric Intensive Care network, all Chief Medical Officers and the Medical Defence organisations.