



National Breast Cancer Audit, 1st Floor, 38 Payneham Road, SA 5069
Postal Address: PO Box 553, Stepney, SA 5069 college.breast.audit@surgeons.org 08-8363-7513



New Minimum Dataset Forms

The NBCA will be introducing new one-page minimum dataset forms in response to concerns from some users about the time taken to complete the audit. The minimum dataset has been developed by surgeons and the audit's overseeing committees and includes items required to calculate the quality thresholds. It is awaiting final approval from the NBOCC Contract Advisory Committee, the Evidence and Performance Subcommittee and the Audit Steering Committee.

The introduction of a minimum dataset will allow surgeons the option of either submitting the short form or continuing to use the full dataset. If you would like to view drafts of the abbreviated invasive and DCIS forms please contact audit staff, we appreciate your feedback.

Institutional Data Uploading

In an endeavor to allow more surgeons to participate in the audit by contributing data, the NBCA worked with programmers Alcidion in 2007 to develop a facility to incorporate breast cancer treatment data from institutional databases.

Before data from an institution can be uploaded into the live NBCA database the institution is required to create an export file of their data. Audit personnel then map each field to the NBCA fields as closely as possible and where necessary transform the data to the appropriate format. Alcidion create institution-specific programs and the data is first uploaded to a test database where a series of checks are undertaken and approval obtained from the institution's data manager to ensure there are no errors before it is uploaded.

One of the disadvantages to using the institutional data upload is that surgeons cannot make changes to their data using the online system as these will be overwritten when the next upload is done.

Our initial focus has been working on data from Strathfield Breast Centre and Royal Melbourne Hospital, with Strathfield nearing completion. Strathfield data will add about 3000 cases to the audit. The NBCA database now comprises approximately 67,000 cases in total. Special thanks to Catherine Kennedy at Strathfield, who has worked closely with Louise and Cliona on this project. Also to Pamela Williams with whom we are progressing work on the Royal Melbourne Hospital data.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

❖ Audit News

- Minimum Dataset
- Institutional Data
- Improved Data Export
- Caseload 2007
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Adjuvant Therapy
- List of Participants
- Public Health Report
- Old Access Data

❖ Staff & contact details

*We are most grateful
for your continuous
support*

Any problems
Phone

+618 8363-7513

email

college.breast.audit@surgeons.
org

Improved 'Export to Excel' Function

An important aim of the audit is to offer surgeons the facility to look at their own practice data for their own purposes. We received feedback from some users who found the resource to download their data was not user friendly. We have now improved the function that allows the user to download their entire dataset to an Excel spreadsheet.

The NEWS item on the data entry website will now be updated more regularly in 2008, so remember to check it when you log in!

The new "Export my Data to Excel" report is more intuitive and user friendly. The excel file that is generated features the data spread over five worksheets, representing the five data entry pages; all are linked by a common patient identifier. There is also a sheet which includes all data points for each case, which may be used to import data into statistical packages such as SPSS.

We are interested to learn how you find the new data export function and how useful users find the other reports available on the website, are there any reports not shown that you would like to see available on the website? College.breast.audit@surgeons.org



Data Submission and Caseload for 2007

In 2007, we collected a survey on MDC team use among Breast Section members. As part of this survey we asked respondents to predict the number of breast cancer cases they expected to treat in 2007. We will be using these estimated caseloads to assess the coverage of the audit overall and among individual surgeons. We will be sending surgeons a Certificate of Participation in 2008; the accompanying letter will show the predicted caseload you gave and the number of cases that have been entered so far for 2007.

Now that 2007 is behind us, if you would like to amend your predicted caseload to better reflect the actual number treated please contact the Breast Audit team at ASERNIP-S.

We would also like to remind users to please enter as many of your 2007 cases into the audit as possible by the end of April 2008. This helps us ensure the audit data is current and representative for the purposes of analyses.

Frequently Asked Questions

available on our website

<http://www.surgeons.org/asernip-s/breast.htm>

Wording of Adjuvant Therapy items

Please note that we have simplified the wording around the adjuvant therapy items featured in the audit, to clarify that the questions refer to ACTUAL treatment received rather than *intended* treatment. The change involved removing the heading "Did you refer or prescribe any of the following treatments?", the options available then become clearer:

- **Yes** = the patient received the treatment
- **No** = the patient was not referred and/or did not receive the treatment
- **Not yet** = this is not considered a final response, it is expected that surgeons who give this response will go back to complete when the answer becomes clear. The audit will be phasing out this option and do not recommend using it.
- **Referred but not used** = the surgeon referred or prescribed the treatment, but it was not received for some reason. E.g. the patient refused or another specialist felt it was not necessary

The data dictionary is undergoing an update and will reflect these changes.

List of Participating Surgeons

A list of all surgeons who have ever contributed data to the audit is now available on the ASERNIP-S website. The list acknowledges the support of these surgeons and is available to consumers looking to choose a surgeon who audits their practice. Visit the ASERNIP-S website to also find other Breast Audit materials such as previous newsletters, paper forms, reports and FAQ.

www.surgeons.org/asernip-s/breast.htm

The participation list will be updated early in 2008.

NBCA/NBCC Public Health report 2007

As part of the NBCA's contract with the National Breast Cancer Centre, the audit will produce a broad public health report, exploring some trends in breast cancer care and giving an overall picture of patients with breast cancer in Australia and New Zealand captured by the audit.

This literature will be available in the coming months at:

www.surgeons.org/asernip-s/breast.htm

www.nbcc.org.au

*The NBCA invites you to also enter your **non-operative patients** into the audit database by using the "No Surgery" option on the procedures page.*

Web-address for the online data entry system:

<https://www.collegeba.org/>

Contact the audit help desk if you have forgotten your log in

Old MS Access Data Upload

At the end of 2005, in preparation for the launch of the new website we held a moratorium on data collected in the old Microsoft Access version of the audit database.

There was some data we received in this format after the cut off date that could not be included in the new database, however, we are now able to have this data entered by hand into the online system. The addition of this older Access data will add about 800 cases to the audit.

Surgeons who sent in data in Access or Excel format after the new website was launched may notice effects in the values of their thresholds as this data is entered.



Breast Cancer Audit Staff

As you may be aware, research officer Cliona O'Donovan left the Breast Audit team in October to return to her native Ireland. Cliona had made significant headway into the development of the institutional data upload system and will be missed as a valued member of the team. This work is continuing and has been taken over by Louise and Claire.

The National Breast Cancer Audit Team:

Ms Maggi Boulton- Morbidity Audits Manager

Dr Jim Wang- Senior Research Officer

Ms Claire Marsh- Research Officer

Ms Louise Kennedy- Administrative Officer

Our Contact Address:

PO Box 553
Stepney
SA 5069

Phone:
+61 8 8363-7513

Fax:
+61 8 8362-2077

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the National Breast Cancer Foundation, through the National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre, for generously supporting the NBCA.