

Newsletter  
May 2015



**SAAPM**

South Australian Audit  
of Perioperative Mortality



## SAAPM seminar – approved CPD activity

---

You are invited to attend a FREE seminar being presented by SAAPM in association with SA Health on the topic of ‘The decision to operate – or not’. The seminar will be held at 6.30pm on Thursday, 23rd July, at the Education Development Centre, Hindmarsh. This educational activity has now been approved in the College’s CPD Program. Attendees can claim 1 point per hour [max. 3 points] in Maintenance of Knowledge & Skills. To register, please contact SAAPM on 8239 1144 or [saapm@surgeons.org](mailto:saapm@surgeons.org).

## Answering questions on SAAPM forms

---

We have identified some questions on SAAPM forms that are often misinterpreted or answered in an inconsistent way. To improve the quality of our data, each newsletter will provide guidance relating to a particular question. In addition, please feel free to contact the SAAPM office if you require clarification about any of the questions.

### Consideration, concern or adverse events in patient management

For every case, both the treating surgeon and the assessors are asked to identify any ‘Areas for consideration, areas of concern or adverse events’ in the management of the patient. The criteria for each of these categories are listed in the box above the question. Most importantly, the issues identified should relate to a deficiency of care, not to an event that is a reasonable

complication of satisfactory treatment. In a number of reports that we receive, the answer to this question describes an adverse outcome but the deficiency of care aspect is not clear.

Examples of incidents reported include:

- Pneumonia
- Left groin wound and infection post-procedure
- Ischaemic colon unrelated to surgery

These outcomes may indeed have resulted from a deficiency in some aspect of the patient's care, but that is not clear from the description. For example, pneumonia causing death in the setting of an elderly, demented bed bound patient with a fractured neck of femur would not be seen as an 'Area for Consideration, Area of Concern or Adverse Event'. However, pneumonia due to aspiration in a patient with vomiting from a small bowel obstruction who did not have a nasogastric tube placed in a timely manner would be a clinical event.

The answer should clearly describe the deficiency; common examples are *inadequate assessment, technical errors, delay in treatment or surgery, and inappropriate decision to operate.*

## National Case Note Review App

---

Due to the substantial dataset now available, ANZASM second-line case note reviews have been incorporated into an App format. The second-line case note reviews will continue to be displayed in a deidentified manner. The main features of the ANZASM National Case Note Review App will allow you to:

- Search for cases – by specialty, key word searches and National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards.
- View Latest cases – view the latest monthly new case note review cases that were recently uploaded when you receive a notification.
- Provide Feedback – have the opportunity to feedback your comments

about the App.

- View notices of upcoming events – view notices about up and coming ASM events around the country, as well as the release of ASM reports.

ANZASM is in a good position to utilise the extensive information learned to promote safer health care practices. The App has been based on the success of the second-line (case note review) assessment report booklets and e-magazines which contain a more in-depth investigation of key surgical issues and lessons that can be learnt from these. The App will increase the quantity and quality of information available on issues that relate to clinical governance and patient care across the country. There are many benefits to the individual using the App. For example easy accessibility 24x7, it can be accessed while in a hospital/clinical environment and there is also no need to carry a hardcopy of the booklet.

This App is compatible for both Android and iPhone tablets and phones. Search for “RACS National Case Note Reviews” on the Apple App store and on Google Play.



## Fellows Interface upgrade – self-generation of death notifications

---

Fellows Interface users are now able to notify SAAPM directly of a patient death. This will allow for the surgical case form to be completed immediately, avoiding the sometimes lengthy delays in hospital notifications. To create a new case, users simply log in to Fellows Interface, click the 'Create New Case' button and fill in the requested details. Please [click here](#) for a step-by-step user guide.

### **SAAPM staff:**

**Clinical Director**

**Mr Glenn McCulloch**

**Project Manager**

**Ms Sasha Stewart**

**Project Officer**

**Ms Kimberley Cottell**

### **SAAPM Contacts:**

**Telephone: 08 8239 1144**

**Facsimile: 08 8239 1244**

**Email: [saapm@surgeons.org](mailto:saapm@surgeons.org)**

**Post: PO Box 3115 Melbourne Street, NORTH ADELAIDE SA 5006**

**Web: [www.surgeons.org/saapm](http://www.surgeons.org/saapm)**

**Please contact SAAPM if you have any queries**

**SAAPM is covered by qualified privilege and is a gazetted qualified assurance activity**

