



SAAPM

South Australian Audit of Perioperative Mortality



Dear Colleague,

This is the second newsletter to keep surgeons in South Australia informed regarding the South Australian Audit of Surgical Mortality (SAAPM).

2013/14 Annual Report

We will be working on 2013/14 data to produce the annual report which will be available early in 2015. The Census date was October 31, 2014. That gave everyone 3 months to complete outstanding surgical case forms (SCF) for the time period in question.

We are both pleased and disappointed with the results. Pleased as there has been an increase in the percentage of SCF's completed and returned – up from 87% to 92%. Surgeons are taking seriously their responsibilities in regard to the audit. We are however disappointed in that 27 surgeons have not completed all surgical case forms in the required period. Of these 27 surgeons, 22 have only one case outstanding – so close to conforming but not quite close enough. The Council has decided that **ALL SCF's must be returned within 3 months** (from date received) to satisfy the CPD requirements (also see item below). Of great personal disappointment to me are the three surgeons who, despite multiple reminders, between them have 27 outstanding cases.

One interesting point is already apparent from the data – the number of surgical deaths has decreased – 616 this year compared to 638 in both 2013 and 2012.

SAAPM / CPD link

It is anticipated that from November, there will be direct electronic linkage between the SAAPM database and the RACS CPD online system. The diary will display the number of outstanding surgical case forms for the period 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014. In February next year, outstanding forms from that period will automatically trigger a letter from Professional Standards indicating non-compliance. This will be a very positive move (although it has taken three years to achieve).

How to find the Fellows Interface

By far the easiest way to complete the SCF is online via Fellows Interface. Some Fellows have complained (and with good reason in my view) that it is hard to find the Fellows Interface through the RACS website. If you have received an email regarding one of your cases, an easy way to access Fellows Interface is to simply click on the link provided:

<https://www.collegeasm.org/mortaudit/>

Alternatively, after logging onto the RACS website, go to the menu at the bottom of the page and click on Audits & Surgical Research under the heading 'Connections'. This will display a page on which the second major heading is 'Audits of Surgical Mortality'. Click on SAAPM and that will take you to the SAAPM home page. Scroll down to an item headed 'Electronic Platform – Fellows Interface' and click on the link labelled 'Fellows Interface'. A blue log in page will appear. Log into your account and complete your form.

An easier way is to save the SAAPM log-in page (the blue page, link shown above) to your favourites in your web browser. I know that the process is more complicated than it should be. We have asked that it be made easier with a link on the RACS home page and will push for it.

SA Health support

We are pleased that SA Health have indicated that they are likely to fund SAAPM for the next three years. We must produce the goods to justify their faith in us – this means 100% SCF's returned, quality data with all items in the SCF's filled in, a quality annual report, governance reports to health units and educational feedback to our Fellows. As a part of the educational aspect of our role, we will be holding a seminar in July 2015 (see below).

Seminar – July 2015

SAAPM is pleased to announce that in July 2015 we will be running a seminar in association with SA Health on the topic of 'The decision to operate – or not'. It is likely to be held on a weeknight from 6-9 pm. Attendance will be free and open to all health professionals, particularly surgeons, surgical trainees, anaesthetists and nurses. We would be grateful for any feedback on the proposed topic or suggestions for future seminars. More details in the next newsletter.

Evaluation survey

Thank you to those who returned the SAAPM evaluation survey distributed in May. We were pleased with the response rate of almost 60% and have found the feedback, both positive and negative (or 'constructive'), to be very valuable. It was particularly encouraging that 86% of respondents reported that participation in SAAPM has influenced their practice in one or more areas, and that a high percentage of respondents both read and found value in our publications and individual feedback letters. We are always grateful for feedback on the audit process, activities and publications, and any suggestions on how we could improve, so please feel free to contact us at any time.

Yours sincerely

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Please contact SAAPM if you have any queries or suggestions regarding the audit process.

SAAPM is covered by qualified privilege and is a gazetted quality assurance activity.