

QUALITY CONTROL PROGRAMME 1997/98
Product readings checklist
 for national studies taken beyond overview

Study topic	Anaesthetic and pain relief services audit
Authority	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust
Auditor	DA South and West, Martin Parker
Reviewer	David Bawden
Date of review	20 October 1998

Notes to Roy Webster

I think the things that you could ask about at the QCR visit are:

General:

I have general concerns (but no evidence except that I know that the DA national co-ordinator has similar concerns and has spent some time at Winchester helping them out) about arrangements in the region for :

- Co-ordination of the audit
- Allocation of auditors for field work
- Management of the auditors doing field work
- Quality control on reports

To be fair, DA have taken action to retrieve position on the anaesthetic audits. It would be worth asking what they have done in the short term, and what they intend doing to prevent recurrence in the future.

Portsmouth report:

I think DA has done a reasonable job pulling this report around after a not very good first attempt. But I suspect that this was all too late and that better co-ordination, supervision and management earlier on would have resulted in a much better audit report first time around. I think that the fieldworker is relatively new to DA and audit, so I wouldn't want to criticise her if the fault lie elsewhere.

The particular things you could ask about are:

- Supervision of auditor doing field work
- Communication arrangements with trust (see core requirements CR5 of the product reading report)
- Reason why further work was not pursued on post-operative pain, anaesthetic services for women in labour, consultants' actual work (see core requirement CR2)