

Fiona Cameron - General Manager

From: Eileen Thomas - Nursing Director
Sent: 23 January 2002 09:46
To: Fiona Cameron - General Manager; Max Millett - Chief Executive; Ian Piper - Operational Director; 'Reid Ian (RHU) Portsmouth Hospitals'; 'Humphrey Lesley (RHU) Portsmouth Hospitals'; Caroline Harrington - Assistant Business Manager
Cc: Janet Peach - Service Manager
Subject: RE: Audit of medical notes

Fiona, Thank you for passing this one - I have a number of concerns - I imagine the same as everyone else - I hope not too repetitive! In the first instance my notes from the CHI feedback show that they wanted to do an audit of case notes "to ensure that we have implemented change" - I read this as current case notes - not respective notes relating to deceased people. I think we would have been a lot safer on the former - given we have paid so much attention to this recently.

More important is their approach to "a sample" - sample size is only relevant if you are looking for statistical probability - the numbers of deaths in total would be too low to provide this. The numbers during this one year may be swayed by ad hoc events which affect the overall numbers - they should look at numbers of previous years if they insist on using this approach and compare with 1998 for example. If they have a template for good practice - what is this based on - what we have said, good practice literature or the opinions of the expert witnesses. I do think we should know exactly what parameters they intend to use in order to challenge if relevant their approach. Julie confirms that their lawyers are happy - they are not Caldicott Guardians of the info - Ian is - what do our lawyers say - and what is the implication of revealing small number information even if anonymised info in a report that local relatives are sure to identify?

Might be over reacting but for me the rules have shifted again. Sorry if this is not really helpful, Eileen

-----Original Message-----

From: Fiona Cameron - General Manager
Sent: 22 January 2002 15:06
To: Max Millett - Chief Executive; Eileen Thomas - Nursing Director; Ian Piper - Operational Director; Reid Ian (RHU) Portsmouth Hospitals; Humphrey Lesley (RHU) Portsmouth Hospitals; Caroline Harrington - Assistant Business Manager
Cc: Janet Peach - Service Manager
Subject: FW: Audit of medical notes

Just received. Have asked Jan to pull together the figures. Any questions any one wants to ask Julie?

FIONA

-----Original Message-----

From: p=NHS NATIONAL
INT;a=NHS;c=GB;dda:RFC-822;
Sent: 22 January 2002 13:18
To: Fiona Cameron - General Manager
Subject: Audit of medical notes

Code A

*Reid Ian
 Muller*

Hello Fiona

Hope all well with you.

A quick update on where we are with the proposed audit of case notes. Just trying to establish a suitable sample size for us to look at. It would be really helpful if you could give me a rough idea of the number of deaths on both Dea Dalus and Dryad wards in August, September, October, November, December 2001 and this January. No need to break down month by month at this stage.

Broadly, we're planning a look at anonymised notes for the last admission of a selection of those patients who died very recently. I have just confirmed with our lawyers that we do not need consent from relatives, as

we'll be looking at non-attributable information. I will pull together a term of reference for this piece of work before we begin, which I'll share with you as well as a note of all those involved. We need to be clear who is able to see the completed piece of work, which may include families, this needs more working through, but thought you'd appreciate my early thoughts.

I'm in the office tomorrow, do give me a call if you need further clarification.

Regards,

Julie

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Code A

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