Dear Colleague

Welcome to the third newsletter for the NRAD.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the project and continued support and input.

**Notify us of an asthma death anywhere in the UK between 1 February 2012 and 31 January 2013**

**NEW**

**OUR NEW NOTIFICATION CRITERIA**

ONS classification of asthma or anaphylaxis (ie ICD-10 J45-J46, T78.2) as underlying cause of death AND

If 0-75 years old:
- Death certified as being due to asthma or anaphylaxis (ICD-10 J45-J46, T78.2) in **part 1** or **2** of the medical certification of the cause of death (MCCD) OR
- Post-mortem diagnosis of asthma as cause of death OR
- Clinician diagnosis of asthma as probable cause of death.

If ≥75 (NEW CRITERIA):
- Death certified as being due to asthma (ICD-10 J45-J46) in **part 1** (only) of the medical certification of the cause of death (MCCD) OR
- Post-mortem diagnosis of asthma or anaphylaxis as cause of death.

For details on how to notify us please [click here](#).

For the purposes of case ascertainment we receive notifications from the ONS and will contact you when a case from your hospital or practice meets one of the above inclusion criteria.

**NRAD Enquiry panels**

The first three pilot NRAD confidential enquiry panels took place in June and July and so far 26 cases have been reviewed. These pilot panels were a great success and already some very interesting findings, and recommendations for practice, have emerged. We look forward to providing further updates after the next set of panels start in September.

There are still spaces on some of the panels between September 2012 and September 2013 – please contact [nrad@rcplondon.ac.uk](mailto:nrad@rcplondon.ac.uk) if you would like to attend any of these.

**Panel travel and travel expenses**

Travel expenses (in accordance with RCP travel policy) for panel meetings will be available to assessors unable to claim travel expenses from their employing NHS trust. Please contact the dedicated RCP travel agent, Supersonic Travel, to book travel quoting NRAD and the date of the event as the reference on 020 7240 2552.

**Primary Care**

Deaths within the community are particularly challenging to capture. In order for the NRAD to achieve the maximum level of notifications possible we would value the support of the UK’s GPs and their practices. All documentation is available on the RCP website and we would very much appreciate if GPs could use this to notify us of their asthma deaths [www.rcplondon.ac.uk/nrad](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/nrad).

**What we need from you, and all healthcare staff caring for patients:**

- If you are aware of a death of a person possibly due to asthma between 1 February 2012 and 31 January 2013, please notify the NRAD team.
- If you are aware that one of your patients may have died from asthma, please keep the health records of the person until you have heard from NRAD (this is to avoid delays later when you are asked to provide the information).
- If NRAD contact you to provide clinical information on one of your patients who has died and been notified to NRAD as possibly due to asthma, please do so as a matter of urgent importance.

To receive regular updates on the project please email your contact details to [nrad@rcplondon.ac.uk](mailto:nrad@rcplondon.ac.uk). Alternatively, if you would like to be removed from our mailing list please [click here](#).
A bit of background
A national review of Asthma Deaths (NRAD), run by a consortium of asthma professionals and patient bodies, led by the Royal College of Physicians (RCP), is looking into the circumstances surrounding death from asthma. The NRAD has been commissioned and funded by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP).

For a 12-month period from 1 February 2012, every death from asthma in the UK meeting our inclusion criteria will be reviewed systematically and will be subject to an in-depth multidisciplinary confidential enquiry.

The aim of the project is to understand why people of all ages die from asthma so that recommendations can be made to prevent deaths from asthma in the future.

Meet the team
Dr Mark Levy
Clinical Lead, GP
mlevy@nhs.net

Rosie Houston
Programme Manager
nrad@rcplondon.ac.uk or
rosie.houston@nhs.net

Rachael Davey
Programme Coordinator
nrad@rcplondon.ac.uk or
Rachael.davey@nhs.net

Other asthma related news...
US student, 20, died two weeks after asthma attack in hospital car park 50 yards from A&E when staff insisted friends dialed 999

Supermarkets to sell asthma inhalers over the counter

Third of asthmatics risk a fatal attack, study suggests

National Review of Asthma Deaths, House 1, Royal College of Physicians, House 1, St Andrews Place Regent’s Park, London NW1 4LE. www.rcplondon.ac.uk/nrad