



National Review of Asthma Deaths (NRAD) NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 3 – August 2012

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**

**PLEASE NOTE:
OUR NEW NOTIFICATION
INCLUSION 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

To receive regular updates on the project please email your contact details to nrad@rcplondon.ac.uk. Alternatively, if you would like to be removed from our mailing list please [click here](#).

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 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.

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.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IF WE DO NOT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION BELOW PLEASE [EMAIL US](#)

Why have I been asked to complete the information on this patient when asthma only appears in part 2 of the death certificate?

ONS/NRS use information from both part 1 and part 2 of the death certificate to assign the underlying cause of death code (ICD10) as per the WHO mortality coding rules. If asthma is assigned as the underlying cause of death for anyone 74 years of age or younger, these cases must be included. If the patient is 75 years or older then we are only requesting information if asthma appeared in part 1.

What if I do not think that asthma was the cause of death?

Please complete the outstanding information in the pre-populated Form 1 - notification summary ensuring you:

- select 'highly unlikely' at the bottom of the front of the form,
- write a brief summary on the back (section 5) explaining why the case is not an asthma death, and
- send that back to us with a copy of as many supporting case notes as possible.

On receipt of this information our clinical lead and an expert screening panel will be able to make a decision on whether the case can be excluded from the enquiry. Please be aware that if it is felt that the case should still be included we will come back to you for completion of the forms.

Is completion of these forms mandatory?

It is not mandatory, however:

- 1) The NRAD is a National Audit and Confidential Enquiry
- 2) The NRAD is now part of the Quality Accounts list for 2012-13, therefore hospitals are encouraged to participate
- 3) Participation in national audit and confidential enquiry is also detailed as one of the requirements of the General Medical Council in its documents 'Good Medical Practice' (Para 14, items g & c) for maintaining and improving performance
- 4) The NRAD is a project commissioned by the Department of Health and has the support of a number of professional and lay organisations (including the RCGP). Please see full list at our [website](#)

As a GP, do I get paid for this work?

No, unfortunately we are unable to offer remuneration for this work. However, we will provide you with a certificate to confirm your participation in this project. This will provide you with high quality evidence for appraisal, revalidation and continuing professional development (CPD) documentation.

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.

Please note:

The NRAD has received approval from the National Information Governance Board (NIGB) to collect patient identifiable information without consent, under Section 251 of the NHS Act 2006. Reference ECC 8-02(FT2)/2011.

The NRAD now appears on the Quality Accounts list for 2012-2013.

Meet the team

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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](#)