

National Audit of Care at the End of Life (NACEL)



Benchmarking Network



National Audit of
Care at the End of Life

Definitions of deaths to be included in NACEL Case Note Review

- 1 **Acute hospitals:** Audit up to maximum of 20 consecutive deaths from 1st April 2019 - 14th April 2019, and up to maximum of 20 consecutive deaths from 1st May 2019 - 14th May 2019.
- 2 **Community hospitals:** Audit up to a maximum of 40 consecutive deaths from 1st April 2019 - 31st May 2019.
- 2 Separate submissions should be made for acute and community hospital sites. You will have defined these during the registration process.
- 3 Please submit up to a maximum of 40 Case Note Reviews from deaths occurring in the audit period.
- 4 Include only ADULT deaths i.e. if the patient was aged 18+ at the time of death.
- 5 Include deaths in specialist palliative care beds that are fully managed and funded by the NHS. Hospices are excluded.
- 6 The Case Note Review will audit deaths which fall into the following two categories:-
 1. **It was recognised that the patient may die** - it had been recognised by the hospital staff that the patient may die imminently (i.e. within hours or days).
Life sustaining treatments may still be being offered in parallel to end of life care.
 2. **The patient was not expected to die** - imminent death was not recognised or expected by the hospital staff. However, the patient may have had a life limiting condition or, for example, be frail, so that whilst death wasn't recognised as being imminent, hospital staff were "not surprised" that the patient died.
- 7 Deaths which are classed as "**sudden deaths**" are excluded from the Case Note Review. These are deaths which are sudden and unexpected; this includes, but is not limited to, the following:-
 - all deaths in Accident and Emergency departments
 - deaths within 4 hours of admission to hospital
 - deaths due to a life-threatening acute condition caused by a sudden catastrophic event, with a full escalation of treatment plan in place. These deaths would not fall into either category 1 or 2 above.
- 8 Throughout this Case Note Review, the term "nominated person(s)" has been used. This relates to the terminology "those identified as important to the dying person" as used in "One chance to get it right". This may not necessarily be the next of kin.