

What happens AFTER 8 minutes?

Introducing the ASCQI Project: 'Ambulance Service Cardiovascular Quality Initiative'

By Georgina Jones

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How do **we** as **clinicians** improve care for Stroke and Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI) patients?

The LAS has joined 11 other ambulance services on a national project aiming to improve the delivery of pre-hospital care for cardiovascular disease, focusing on Stroke and AMI. This project involves staff working on frontline vehicles, identifying good practice, areas for improvement and testing new ideas.

The project has identified 'care bundles' for each condition. These are a group of treatments that as a minimum each patient should receive.

Stroke Care Bundle:

- Face-Arm-Speech-Test (FAST)
- Blood glucose test
- Blood pressure recorded

AMI Care Bundle:

- Aspirin
- Glyceryl trinitrate
- Pain score recorded before and after treatment
- Analgesia (Entonox and/or morphine)

Whilst we are extremely good at providing some of these aspects it is important that every patient receives the entire 'care bundle' for optimal treatment.

The project aims to improve the delivery of 'care bundles' from national current levels of 43% (AMI) and 83% (Stroke) to at least 90% by April 2012. Through collecting PRF data our Clinical Audit & Research Unit has identified initial LAS baseline figures of 47% (AMI) and 93% (Stroke). As a service we are aiming for an achievable target of 95%.

The project has started by working with staff and running workshops at Pinner Complex and is being developed to roll out across the service.

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Undertaking CPI - Updated guidance

By Hannah Salvidge

Clinical Audit Facilitator

The guidance for undertaking Clinical Performance Indicators (CPIs) will be updated in April 2011, with version 4.0 superseding all previous versions.

Version 4.0 incorporates all of the changes made to the CPI database since the introduction of the new PRF. It has also been re-designed to be more user friendly in a variety of ways:

- The sources for aspects of care have been updated
- Aspects of care are now listed to reflect the order of the new PRF
- There are now fuller explanations for when to score Yes and when to score No

Staff who attend restricted duties/CPI refresher training sessions will be handed copies of the updated guidance as part of the training session.

From April 2011 everyone can access the updated guidance by clicking a link on the CPI database homepage, or by visiting X:\Clinical Audit & Research Unit\Clinical Performance Indicators (CPIs)\Indicators & Guidance.

For more information, or for any enquiries relating to the guidance or undertaking CPIs in general please contact: Hannah Salvidge, Clinical Audit Facilitator
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