

SOCIETY FOR CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY
IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

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Annual Business Meeting 2008

STANDING REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE QUALITY ACCREDITATION
PROGRAMME

A. MATTERS OF INFORMATION FOR THE MEMBERSHIP:

Report Chairman Quality Accreditation Panel

All English units are now routinely submitting outcome data to CCAD, and thereby to ONS. The introduction of the CCAD public portal and the April 2007 update emphasise the importance of completeness, accuracy and validation of data. There is also the option for patients to compare results for their selected unit with either the Euroscore or a contemporary UK benchmark which itself will be derived from a complex Euroscore recalibration. The purpose of Quality Accreditation (QA) visits has been to review the local processes for data collection, collation, analysis, and feedback, including the quality assurance of these systems. There have been no QA visits over the last 12 months. This may reflect more understanding and familiarity with the process of cardiac surgical data management, data submission to CCAD and its subsequent presentation on a public portal. Several steps have led to this;

- data collection has been an iterative process
- regular meetings of audit leads have led to improvements
- the process has benefited from the focus of surgeon specific mortality
- the export of data from CCAD for the April 2007 public portal has further focussed attention on data quality
- the reports of data validation visits on the HC public portal recognises and illustrates good practice

A model for best practice in data validation is available on the SCTS homepage for consideration.

Birmingham, Belfast and the Brompton have requested QA visits and Nottingham has requested re-certification. Structurally and administratively, however, the HCC itself has been cleaved from its audit arm to a fate as yet unknown. The Tripartite (DoH, SCTS, HCC) group has decided that visits are suspended until further notice – hopefully there will be news on this at the ABM.

Mark Jones
Chair QAP
11/2/2008