

## **NAP7: Perioperative Cardiac Arrest**

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The Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCOA) National Audit Projects (NAPs) have been running for over a decade. These service evaluations have helped drive change in anaesthetic practice, at national and international level regarding neuroaxial blocks, airway management, awareness and anaphylaxis. NAPs investigate specific perioperative topics that are rare, have potentially serious complications, and are important to both patients and anaesthetists. The aim is to improve anaesthesia-related patient care and outcomes. For the first time, anaesthesia associates have been invited to take part and Lee Varney is representing the Association of Anaesthesia Associates on the steering panel. Your contribution and cooperation will be valuable to the project.

The seventh project (NAP7) will study perioperative cardiac arrest. We know patients worry about not 'waking up' after their anaesthetic and anaesthesia providers strive to avoid catastrophic events. Our knowledge of perioperative cardiac arrest is limited; for example, we do not know how often and when it occurs, or the outcomes. Although in-hospital cardiac arrests are included in the National Cardiac Arrest Audit (NCAA), perioperative cardiac arrests are usually missed because anaesthetists usually treat the arrest and do not make a 2222 call.

Each NAP lasts about 3-4 years and includes planning, data collection and analysis, and sharing of results and recommendations. NAP7 will launch in spring/summer 2020 in over 320 UK hospitals and will include all perioperative cardiac arrests for one year. The study will consist of:

- 1) Baseline survey: electronic survey aiming to understand previous experiences and current anaesthesia practice of perioperative cardiac arrests.
- 2) Activity survey: paper-based survey aimed to assess national anaesthesia activity and will help identify the denominator value to calculate the incidence of perioperative cardiac arrest.
- 3) Case registry/review: on-line database in which perioperative cardiac arrests will be reported anonymously. Specific event-related data will be evaluated by the NAP7 steering panel to identify common learning themes.

The process of determining the exact definition and inclusion/exclusion criteria of perioperative cardiac arrest has started. If you want to get involved in your hospital, contact

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your local coordinator. There is a list of local coordinators at:  
<https://www.nationalauditprojects.org.uk/NAP7-Home#pt>.

All anaesthesia associates, including trainees, will be encouraged to engage in NAP7. Your active support together with anaesthetic colleagues will have a large impact on the implementation of the project. We look forward to working with you on NAP7.