

South Australian Anaesthetic Mortality Committee (SAAMC)



13 May 2016

Dear Colleague

SA Audit of Surgical Mortality (SAASM)

SAASM has now been operational for more than ten years. Over this time the project has achieved excellent participation rates, with 100% hospital and surgeon participation, including all surgical specialties and gynaecology. The SA audit is fully funded by SA Health, and is managed through the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS). All data is encrypted and managed through the RACS database only.

As you may be aware, there has been increasing support for closer collaboration between SAASM and anaesthetists, particularly in the collection of anaesthetic mortality data. An extension of Qualified Privilege to include anaesthesia has recently been approved. This privilege is granted under Commonwealth law (see attached). SAASM and the South Australian Anaesthetic Mortality Committee invite all anaesthetists to indicate their willingness to participate (voluntarily) in the audit by completing a participation form. There is a similar data collection process currently being conducted by the ACT and Tasmanian Audits of Surgical Mortality.

The proposed audit process is outlined on the attached flowchart.

Information and participation documentation has been attached, including:

- 'Agreement to Participate' documentation
- Brochure outlining Qualified Privilege within ANZASM. All regional surgical mortality audits, including SAASM, are covered by the overarching legal protection that ANZASM has obtained at the national level.
- Flowchart outlining SAASM-anaesthetic audit process
- Anaesthetic Case Form

The process begins when an anaesthetic case is identified (reported to SAASM by a surgeon). The treating anaesthetist(s) would then be identified through individual hospital medical record departments. For the purpose of maintaining Qualified Privilege, it is essential that participating anaesthetists provide informed consent.

For further information please contact Michelle Gully (ANZCA) on (08) 8239 2822 or MGully@anzca.edu.au, or the SAASM office on (08) 8239 1144 or saasm@surgeons.org

You can also access further information about SAASM via the RACS website: <http://www.surgeons.org/saasm>.

Please return the participation form to SAASM using the contact details provided on the form.

The SAASM team look forward to working with you.

Dr Simon Jenkins
Chair
SAAMC

Mr Glenn McCulloch
Clinical Director and Chair
SAASM

Please address all correspondence to: South Australian Audit of Surgical Mortality
199 Ward Street, North Adelaide, SA 5006 Australia
Telephone: +61 8 8239 1144 Facsimile: +61 8 8239 1244 Email:
saasm@surgeons.org
Website: www.surgeons.org/saasm
ABN 29 004 167 766