

Cinders gets an invitation to the ball

One of the aims of the NACR was to show how poorly provided for CR is and how many patients' lives would be improved and extended if it was truly available to all as promised 10 years ago in the NSF for CHD.

For three years the annual NACR report has been sent to chief execs, SHAs, and Ministers of Health. At its launch each year it has generated much media interest. TV, radio and all of the national newspapers have carried the results. CR may still be a Cinderella service in much of the country but at least now we're getting a 'media profile', as a result, it looks like we are about to be invited to the ball.

...the Department recognises that there may be unacceptable variation in the availability of cardiac rehabilitation. We shall look to develop a set of indicators to improve general access to cardiac rehabilitation because it can lead to improved outcomes and reduce demands for acute hospital beds; (Extract from the operating framework for the NHS in England 2010/11)

The NHS operating framework sets the key works for SHAs and PCTs each year so the fact that we've broken through to the highest level of instructions from the Government is fantastic news. The NACR evidence of how poorly CR is funded and provided for has also spurred on other developments. Most recently the Heart Team, NHS Improvements and the DH money works have been steaming ahead developing a Commissioning Pack for CR. When it is finished, sometime after May, this will be promoted to all PCTs by cardiac networks across the country. I've been involved as part of the steering group and from what I've seen so far it's looking really good. Patrick Doherty (Prince Charming) is seconded to the DH and as well as working on the Commissioning Pack is battling away developing a 'tariff' for CR.

All this may not produce an instant kitchen maid to Princess transformation, but it's another step to being acknowledged as an important part of the management of cardiac illness.

Was it "the Sun wot won it"?

One of the best newspaper spreads last year was in the Sun, the newspaper that famously claimed that it won the election for the Tories in 1992. Probably an exaggeration but you can be sure that civil servants and politicians take Britain's most popular newspaper very seriously. The media coverage for the NACR Annual report is masterminded by the BHF. Each year

they have taken parties of patients to meet their MPs and senior politicians at the House of Commons. The patients are armed with the NACR results. Much lobbying also goes on behind the scenes and we know that the NACR Annual Report has reached the attention of ministers, one of whom has been seen brandishing it at officials of the DH and not in a nice way! If the NACR did not exist, his hand would have been empty.

Solidarity

So - we've not won yet, but we've got ourselves an invitation to the ball and we are to get some nice new clothes. It wasn't the Sun "wot won" the invite (although I'm sure it helped), it was you - by getting together and working on the Audit. We know very well how much time the NACR takes and the real barriers some people face in using it, but if you are part of the NACR and (as a minimum) returning the annual survey, you are one of those who are fighting for CR and **winning**. Whatever the pain now, in the long run you and your patients will benefit.

Bob Lewin



BACR Annual Survey 2008-2009

All of you will have already received the BACR survey for the last financial year. Many thanks to those who have returned this! However, if it is still sitting on your desk, could you please take some time to fill it in and return it to us? If you have any queries about how to fill it in, or if there is any reason why the figures we provided for you are wrong, then please get in touch. We are here to help!

For queries regarding the survey, please contact Corinna (cbp1@york.ac.uk, 01904 321336, Mon.- Thurs.)

① TRAINING DATES

Monday, April 26th
Wednesday, May 26th
Monday, June 14th (Advanced)
Monday, July 19th

We are starting some new advanced training courses and the first is scheduled for Monday, June 14th. These will include using the Access Query Builder and making better use of the reports available on the Database, plus details on how to use and improve your Quarterly Reports. All our training courses are free of charge and take place at the University of York from 12-3.00pm with lunch provided. Local training in your part of the country is also available, provided a minimum of 15 people are able to attend and a suitable training venue is available. Again, there is no charge for this, but we do ask that travel costs are covered. We also offer telephone training for specific problems. If you are interested in any of the above, please contact Nerina (01904 321326 / neo500@york.ac.uk) for further information.



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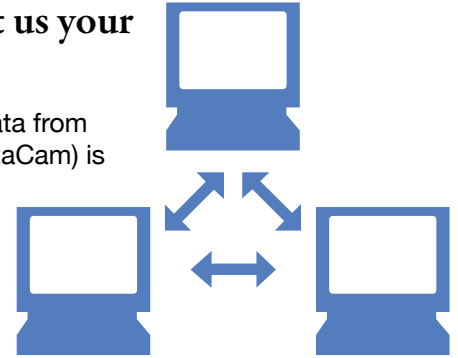
Veronica Morton:
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For all user enquiries or questions about the audit, please contact Nerina (Training and Information Officer) on 01904 321326 /neo500@york.ac.uk. If you have previously contacted Corinna, our Project Manager, with user queries, we would be grateful if you could now contact Nerina in the future instead, as Corinna is now focussing on data quality issues and the annual survey.

Importing – Have you sent us your most recent data?

The importing function, to transfer data from third party software (e.g. Tomcat, DataCam) is now back up and running following last year's dataset changes. If you haven't already started the process of sending data over to us again, please do so as soon as possible. We recommend you try a test file first (about 50 records) so you can check the records are transferring properly. We've noticed that many importing sites haven't sent us data in the new dataset format yet, or have run an import and not contacted us to confirm if everything is OK. Please contact Nerina to either confirm that the import is working satisfactorily, or to get help resolving any issues.



Landing Page

The new Landing Page was launched on both Lotus and the Web on March 15th. All users should now be seeing this as their opening page, and using it to enter new patient records, or find existing records. We know that new ways of working sometimes take a little while to get used to, but we're confident that this will be a better way of working for all users, particularly as it should make the database work faster.



Guidance notes for the new page are available from the Download

section of our website (www.cardiacrehabilitation.org.uk/nacr) and if you have any queries, please contact Nerina on the usual number.

Online Register

Do we have the correct contact details for your programme? Make sure you check the online register (www.cardiac-rehabilitation.net/) and let the NACR team know about any changes of premises, staff etc.

Did you know that you can also login and update your register entry yourself? All you need is a login and password. Please contact Nerina for further information.



It has come to our attention that a number of you are not counting the Heart Manual as Phase 3. Please make sure that you do this as it has been shown in an article by Dalal et al (BMJ 2010; 340: b5631) to be just as affective as centre-based rehab.