A computerised log for the emergency department resuscitation room

Resuscitation is a key activity of the emergency department (ED), yet routine reporting is rare. We previously used a handwritten log but found it to be incomplete. Data analysis was labour intensive. Data from agencies outside the emergency department were not recorded and staff found little opportunity for critical incident reporting.

We created a simple Microsoft Access database that enabled the collection of patient, clinical, and episode details. Outcome and discharge data were added using the hospital computer system and ICD10 coding. Prehospital information was part of the log and has been used to change practice.

Recording the numbers and grades of both nursing and medical staff in the resuscitation room has been influential in making a case for additional staff.

Use of databases for “hot” review in a teaching environment enables identification of important learning points.

Selective analysis of the data is now rapidly available to a variety of interested parties, for example, ED staff, paramedical staff and inpatient teams.

A separate screen for the prehospital phase of patient care has encouraged paramedics to enter data and has facilitated a review of previous cases.

Each middle grade doctor has a training record of cases seen and procedures performed.

This simple, inexpensive, flexible electronic resuscitation log has become an integral part of our department. We would suggest that other departments consider this system if they do not already have one in place, and we would be happy to answer any inquiries.

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References

NOTICES

Medic 1 Trust Fellowship

The Medic 1 Trust Fellowship is awarded to facilitate education or research in the field of accident and emergency medicine and may be used for associated travel. The Fellowship is awarded to a doctor or nurse currently working in the field of accident and emergency medicine. The value of the award will be a maximum of £2500. A maximum of one medical scholarship and one nursing scholarship will be made every year. Applications must be received by 28 February 2004. Further details: Chairman of the Medic 1 Trust, c/o Maclay Murray and Spens Solicitors, 151 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 8NÜ, UK.

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Mad as a hatter

A Fraser-Moodie

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