



TRUSTEES REPORT  
EXTRACTS – 30 SEPTEMBER 2009

Significant events

**Audit of the management of children with decreased consciousness**

It will be recalled from last year's report that following completion of Stage one, a draft work in progress and Scoping Report and Project Plan was prepared by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) in February 2009. However, one month later at an internal meeting of the College – attended by Dr Sabine Maguire, Quality of Practice Committee chair; Dr Ian Maconochie, Officer of Clinical Standards and others – it was agreed, surprisingly, that a national audit would not be the best way to take the work forward. Instead the meeting decided that an alternative proposal should be submitted to the Foundation. In order to test the efficacy of the Guideline it was proposed that a more limited (as opposed to national) project should be considered, one such proposal was the implementation of a regional audit involving perhaps two English regions which, however, was eventually rejected in favour of a *multi-site audit*.

As a result of this decision the College published in November 2009 an amended "Outline Project Plan for a multi-site audit" which detailed the project aims, methodology, organisation and governance and communications strategy. The report anticipated that the project would take 18 months to complete. However, an additional two months may be needed to complete and disseminate the report but as this work will be undertaken internally within the College there will be no additional costs. The cost of the project as detailed in the report is estimated at £156,274.

One of the main considerations that led to the adoption of a more limited audit project was that many hospital units only see a small number of children with reduced consciousness. In addition some hospitals reported that they would have difficulties identifying eligible cases as "reduced consciousness" is not coded on NHS systems. It was therefore felt unnecessary to audit all UK units and that instead the project should focus on auditing practice in those units that see and manage larger numbers and had the resources to carry out the audit.

A smaller scale project would allow the College to start the project sooner and provide more support to units to complete the audit cycle and implement changes. It would also provide the College with an opportunity to carry out more detailed work to explore issues to the data collection process, how the guideline is currently being implemented in different settings and help identify the facilitators and barriers to change.

The finds of this project would be used to share learning with other units across the UK and would also inform the development of a sustainable and cost effective guideline implementation programme which could be adopted and rolled out for other College endorsed guidelines as part of College strategy.



**National Reyes Syndrome  
Foundation UK**

### **New advice on oral salicylate gels in the under 16's**

On 23 April 2009 the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) issued precautionary advice for topical oral pain relief gels containing salicylate salts.

The main products affected are Bonjela and Bonjela Cool Mint Gel. The new advice recommends these products are not used in those under 16 years of age. This is due to salicylate salts having the same effect on the body as aspirin which is already contraindicated in children and young people under 16 years of age.

The new advice is to stop using these products in children and young people under 16, and to use alternative treatments. For infants with teething there is helpful advice in the Department of Health's Birth to Five publication.

The full Press release and Notes to Editors can be found on the MHRA website at: -  
<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/NewsCentre/Pressreleases/CON044014>