POMRC's history

Leona Wilson
Chair

Predecessors

- Anaesthetic Mortality Review Committee (AMAC), ANZCA and NZSA
  - Set up 1981
  - Folded (late 1980s) after report sub-poena'd by police
- And associated audits:
  - Australian and New Zealand Audit of Surgical Mortality (ANZASM), RACS
  - Australian state Anaesthesia Mortality Committees
  - (UK) Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Deaths
  - (NZ) Maternal Deaths Committee superseded by PMMRC
  - Other NZ MRCs now under HQSC

Mortality review committees

- NZPHD ACT 2000 (legal powers)
- Ministerial -> HQSC (monitor and report on safety and quality)
- Advocacy from/response to:
  - The professions
  - Mortality issues
- 3 committees preceded:
  - CYMRC
  - PMMRC
  - FDVRC
- 1 further under consideration - suicide

Challenges in set up

- Defining perioperative procedures:
  - No agreement on outer boundaries:
    - Outside the operating theatre,
    - By non-surgeons,
  - No specific codes
- Very few models of multi-disciplinary review
  - Usually service specific
  - Often based in one profession
- Estimated 6,000+ deaths per year

Philosophy

- Perioperative death:
  - Is rare
  - Can happen post discharge from hospital
  - Can have multiple causes / predisposing factors
  - Not a frequent occurrence for any single health practitioner
    - Collating across NZ allows identification of trends
    - Notifications of hazards
- Learn from the care of those who died to:
  - Improve the care of subsequent patients
  - Prevent further such deaths
  - Strengthen the QI processes within the institutions
  - Who: procedure specific rates, including risk rating
  - Why: what should we change

Annual reports

- Information for the profession
- Developing community-friendly materials
- Two aims,
  - Epidemiology information
  - Understanding causes and making recommendations
- Confidentiality -> no real cases
  - 4 composite cases first time this year

Epidemiology (who)

- (National minimum dataset and national mortality collection)
  - (To be augmented by data from local reporting)
- Investigate deaths related to specific procedures, patients and complications
  - Informed consent
  - Benchmarking
- Track common procedures year-by-year
  - Provide international comparisons to 'benchmark' NZ
- Report on perioperative mortality to WHO
- The future, investigating:
  - Standardized mortality rates
  - Risk calculator based on NZ data

Developing local review (why)

- Criteria re process:
  - Able to be implemented in different institutions
  - Multi-disciplinary, with all professions 'empowered' to speak out
  - Active involvement by 'scalpel-face' clinicians
  - Applicable to different types of procedures
  - Not time consuming
- Criteria re data to be submitted to POMRC on each death:
  - Essential to analysis
  - Contributory to prevention of future deaths
  - Future-proofed
  - Able to be analyzed
  - Compatible with other data sources

Progress so far (local review)

First decision (after trialing a very complex form)

- 2 levels:
  - Tier 1, all deaths, thus limited data that can be analyzed by IT
  - Tier 2: deaths of particular interest, changing annually
- Tier 1 (iterative process for development)
  - Initial version trialed last year
  - Latest version for today
  - Working group from interested hospitals
  - Assessing IT proposal for database set up

Tier 1 form challenges/decisions

- 6,000+ per year in NZ
- Preventability?
  - Improvements to care?
- Separate input from nursing, surgeons and anaesthetists
- Cause of death?
  - Complications
- Initial analysis locally
  - Loses independence
  - Strengthens local QI processes
  - Greater visibility of systems issues

Tier 2:

- To follow tier 1 implementation
- Detailed information of certain categories of deaths
  - Specific procedures
  - Specific post-op complications / causes of death
  - Specific illnesses / surgical conditions
  - Changing regularly
  - Topic responsive to issues, trends

Many thanks to HQSC staff

- HQSC Board and CE
- HQSC staff (mortality unit):
  - Owen, Clifton, Dez, Shelley, Jan, Cristina, Joanna
- Committee
  - Retiring members: Phil Hider, Digby Ngan Kee, Jean-Claude Theis,
  - Joining members: Ian Civil, Keri Parata-Pearse, Rob Vigor-Brown
- You, your colleagues and our community we serve