

# Audit of emergency Operation notes (audit cycle)

N Gulnaz, A. Crumley  
NHS FVRH

Period: January 2020 to March 2020

Abstract ID 21

## Introduction

The Royal college of surgeons have recommended guidelines for documenting operative surgical notes. An operation note must include ample information about the operative diagnosis/indications, findings, complications ,extra procedures, the reason why it was performed, procedure details i.e excision or addition, the closure technique, operative blood loss, Antibiotic prophylaxis (where applicable) DVT prophylaxis (where applicable) and postoperative care instructions. In our initial audit we found some areas for improvement. This re- audit of operative notes was aimed to review compliance with the guidelines.

## Objectives

- To Review compliance with the Royal College of Surgeons operation note guidance.
- To identify areas of improvement

## Methods

- The notes of all patients who underwent emergency surgery from 1<sup>st</sup> of January to 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 under the General Surgical department were reviewed.
- Endoscopic procedures were not included in the study.
- Electronic records were used to review the operation notes.

## Results

- Notes of a total of 176 patients were included in the study.
- Significant improvement was seen in most of the domains. A compliance of 100% was seen in documenting operative findings, type of incision, wound closure technique, procedural details, documenting extra procedures and post operative instructions.
- 17.6% notes did not clearly document the indication/diagnosis for surgery
- 15.3% notes missed information about DVT prophylaxis
- 25.57%notes did not include information about peri-operative antibiotics in the context of prophylaxis or post-op need,
- A significant number (71.6% ) of the notes were missing information about operative blood loss if there was any or none.

## Conclusions

- Overall operation notes detail most of the information expected by the Royal College of Surgeons
- Key areas for improvement are to include specific details about the following:
  - Operative indication/diagnosis especially in emergency laparotomies
  - Antibiotic prophylaxis
  - DVT prophylaxis
  - Blood loss (major area of attention)
- Intervention – raising awareness that this guidance exists.
- Suggesting inbuilt forms for electronic recording if possible in future.
- Re-audit of emergency operation notes to assess for ongoing compliance with Royal College of Surgeons guidance.