

When telephoning please ask for Mrs Clare Costigan

Direct line: 0151 600 1456

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To:-

All thoracic surgical audit leads

19th June, 2009

Dear Colleague,

Re: SCTS Thoracic Surgical Data Collection
Returns for 2008-9

I would be grateful if you could give your attention to the matter of sending me details of thoracic surgical activity from your hospital for the year recently completed running from 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009. For all units this should be in the manner of the Thoracic Register; I have attached a blank template for you to fill in and return to me. Hopefully by now this will be familiar to you.

If your hospital has the ability to prospectively collect data on an electronic database then in addition to the Register I would be pleased to receive a separate more detailed summary of activity as per the SCTS dataset. This is available on the SCTS website under audit and outcomes - thoracic, but I will send an electronic copy to you by e-mail in the near future. As with all such initiatives the dataset has to be filled in carefully with an understanding of the various fields to allow accurate analysis. Following discussions at the Thoracic Surgical Forum and at the Society meeting in Bournemouth, I have made some changes to the spreadsheet to capture a number of new fields relating to the Thoracoscore calculation and also for clarity, emphasising that at least one entry should be made within each of the major sub-headings for each patient. Another change is that pulmonary and non-pulmonary risk factors should be filled in (if available) for all major procedures, rather than just for primary lung cancer resections as previously.

If you have asked one of your colleagues to take over the responsibility for thoracic surgical audit in your hospital I would be grateful if you would pass this letter onto them. Alternatively please let me know who is responsible and I will write to them myself.

I look forward to hearing from you soon. As always please let me know either by phone or e-mail if there is anything I can do to help in any way.

Yours Sincerely,

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SCTS Lead for Thoracic Surgical Audit

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