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Dear colleague,

Re: National DKA audit

I am writing to you as one of the lead authors of the JBDS DKA guidelines. As part of the process of writing the guideline, we looked at the evidence for what we do in managing our patients with DKA. Quite surprisingly, there wasn't much. The guidelines that were first launched in 2010 and updated last year were therefore based on the (limited) available evidence and the expert opinion of those in the writing group, with further contributions from across the UK.

Data presented at the Diabetes UK Annual Professional Conference in 2013 showed that the vast majority of diabetes teams across the UK have adapted or adopted the JBDS guidelines for use in their institutions.

There have also been numerous posters and abstracts presented at local, regional and national meetings showing the effects of implementing the guidelines in individual hospitals. However, there has been no systematic attempt to assess the care of patients admitted with DKA – regardless of whether teams use the JBDS guidelines or not – hence this invitation.

I invite you to take part in this data collection exercise. I believe that it will be the largest data collection of this sort ever undertaken.

I ask that each hospital submit one copy of the 'Institutional Data Collection Tool' and email it back to me using the address given above, or on the form.

I also ask that each hospital fill out the 'Data Collection Form' for the next 5 consecutive patients admitted with DKA to your institution.

I fully appreciate that the forms are long and very detailed, and that each form may take some time to fill out, but I hope that by looking at the form you will understand why the information is being asked for.

Please be assured that this is NOT in any way out to judge your unit, nor an attempt to get you to adopt the JBDS guidelines, far from it. It is simply an assessment of how DKA is managed across the UK in the Spring of 2014. However, if clear trends come out showing where care can be improved, then those will be reflected in the next edition of the guidelines

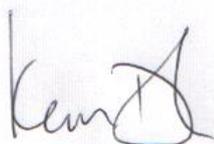
This exercise has the backing of ABCD, JBDS, DUK and the DISN UK group, and the forms have been seen and approved by them (apologies, if you have received this letter 4 times!). In addition the form is also being used concurrently to assess the care of patients over the age of 14 years by paediatric diabetes teams.

The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Research and Development office have seen and classified this work as a 'service improvement exercise' and, because no patient identifiable information is being collected, they have deemed that there is no need for R&D, audit or ethical approval. Patient consent is also not required because it is unidentifiable. For this reason it will also be publishable.

With your help, I hope to have finished collecting the data by the end of September 2014.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation, and look forward to receiving your forms over the next few weeks and months.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01603 288170 or by email at ketan.dhatariya@nhs.net



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