

FREE has tee'd off!

The FREE Study opened to recruitment on 28 May 2013



CONGRATULATIONS

to...

Barnsley Hospital

Freeman Hospital

Musgrove Park Hospital

who were first off the mark!



Participating sites

Welcome to...

Arrowe Park Hospital
Barnsley Hospital
Countess of Chester Hospital
Darent Valley Hospital
Derriford Hospital
Dorset County Hospital
Freeman Hospital
Manchester Royal Infirmary
Medway Maritime Hospital
Musgrove Park Hospital
Northampton General Hospital
Pinderfields Hospital
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital (Wonford)
Royal Gwent Hospital
Salford Royal Hospital
South West Acute Hospital
St George's Hospital
Ulster Hospital
Watford General Hospital
Wrexham Maelor Hospital

Get into the swing!

Monthly teleconference

Thank you to all those who attended the first monthly teleconference on 8 July 2013 and for your contributions to the lively discussion. There were some very useful ideas for running the study locally and we will be circulating the notes from the meeting shortly.

Email forum

Monthly teleconferences will be an excellent opportunity to share ideas but you may want to get in touch with units at other times to discuss ideas and solve problems. To facilitate this we are creating an email forum, which will include all the site main contacts. Please let us know if you would like to opt out of this group.

In addition, we have uploaded a list of all participating hospitals with details of the site Principal Investigators and primary staff contacts onto the FREE Study webpage on the ICNARC website (please note this document will only be accessible if you are registered with access to the FREE Study web portal).

Date for your diary



The next teleconference will be held on

29 August 2013, 12:30 - 13:30

The teleconference is open to everyone! It is a forum to ask questions and to discuss current issues and ideas with the FREE Study Team!



Screening logs

At the start of each month please send your Screening Log for the previous month to the FREE Study Team at ICNARC.

You can send these by:

- faxing to **020 7831 6879**;
- encrypting and emailing to **free@icnarc.org**; or
- posting to ICNARC.

You should start a new screening log each month, filing the previous month's screening log in your Investigator Site File.



Definitions of 'Missed' and 'No Show'

Missed - where a family member has visited the patient's bedside after 24 hours but informed consent was not obtained (they may or may not have been approached about the study).

No show - no family member(s) for the patient, or where no *eligible* family member(s) visited the patient's bedside after 24 hours.



Eligibility criteria

Family members are eligible who:

- visit the patient at least once after 24 hours
- are aged 18 years +
- have a UK postal address
- have not already been recruited into the FREE Study

Family members of patients readmitted to the critical care unit during the same hospital stay are not eligible.

Consent forms

Please ensure consent forms are checked at the time of completion.

For example, you should check that:

- name and contact details, questionnaire language and relationship status are legible - an illegible address has recently resulted in a questionnaire being sent to a wrong address.
- relationship status has been completed correctly i.e. the relationship of the patient to the family member. We need them to indicate 'The patient is my...' e.g. husband, daughter, etc. as this will be merged directly into the cover letter sent with the questionnaire.



FAQs



Are we expected to follow family members to the ward to obtain informed consent?

If a family member visited the patient after 24 hours, but informed consent was not obtained from them while the patient was in critical care, you have the option to follow these family members to the ward to seek informed consent. It is important that the family member understands that the FREE Study is looking at the experience of critical care.

What if a participant asks to see the questionnaire?

Family members should be given an overview of the questionnaire i.e. that it includes questions about:

- satisfaction with the care delivered in the ICU - by all staff i.e. doctors and nurses; and
- satisfaction with decision making - e.g. the information conveyed by ICU staff as well as the process of decision-making in relation to the care and treatment of the patient.

Data entry

Relationship status drop-down list

We will regularly update the dropdown list for 'The patient is my...' field so remember to check the list before you type in the 'Other' box.

When completing the 'Other' field for relationship status, if the option you need is not available in the dropdown list, please ensure that you use the correct grammar including apostrophes and hyphens as required e.g. boyfriend's grandfather, ex-wife, etc.

Hints and tips...



Filters have been provided on the web portal on the 'Patient and Family Member' tab which allow you to search for records with missing data. These include:

- Contact details missing
- Discharge details pending
- Other details missing

The definition of what the filters include are found by clicking on the help text icon 

These filters have been designed to assist you with data entry and we hope you find these useful.

Contact us

The FREE Study Team

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