



Impact Case Study:

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Background

The Yorkshire & Humber AHSN's Improvement Academy has developed a methodology to support Trusts in carrying out systematic reviews of the deaths of patients in their care.

The Structured Judgement Review (SJR) allows Trusts to learn about both excellence and deficiencies in the care provided. The results can be used to inform improvements in the quality of care.

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust serves a population of more than 420,000 across South Yorkshire, North Nottinghamshire and the surrounding areas and runs three hospitals:



Doncaster
Royal Infirmary



Bassetlaw
Hospital



Montague
Hospital

Putting the SJR into practice



Step 1: Identification of cases for review

The Trust uses a mortality screening tool developed by its Mortality Monitoring Group to help case selection for specialties, such as general medicine, that expectedly have a high number of deaths.

Specialties with 10 or fewer deaths per month aim to review 100 per cent of all their deaths. Specialties with consistently more than 10 deaths per month are expected to

review a sample of at least 10 deaths.

All deaths of patients with a learning disability or serious mental health issue or patients who died following an elective admission are reviewed. Additionally, any concerns raised by bereaved families on care received will result in a SJR.

Reviewers are supported throughout in developing their skills.



Step 2: The review process

Cases with the most potential for identifying improvements are brought to the Mortality Case Review meeting, which meets monthly, to make case specific recommendations that are fed back to the ward or department.

Step 3: Review feedback

The Mortality Monitoring Group produces quarterly reports of the reviews and learning outcomes. The care issues identified are used to drive quality improvement initiatives that may have an impact across the whole Trust.

The Trust's Medical Director writes to any individuals or ward teams to praise and acknowledge examples of exemplary care.



Examples of themes and quality improvement initiatives

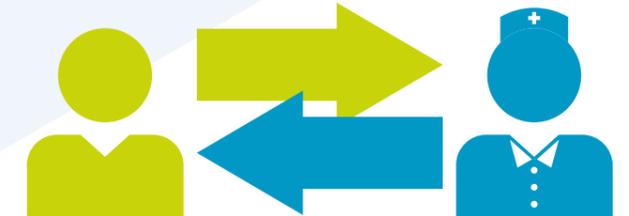
Following the reviews that have been done so far, the Trust has instigated three quality improvement initiatives:

An awareness campaign to improve the recognition of patients coming to the end of their lives. Missed opportunities to recognise that a patient was dying can often result in unnecessary interventions. The Trust is now seeing an improvement in timely recognition and appropriate management of the dying patient.



Admissions from care home and other community settings are now examined to see if these patients could have been cared for in the home rather than in hospital. Information from these reviews is fed back through Clinical Commissioning Groups.

By working with the Learning Disability Specialist Nurse, the Trust has improved how it recognises and records when someone in their care has a learning disability.



Find out more



A toolkit to support acute hospitals in implementing the SJR has been developed by the Royal College of Physicians and Yorkshire & Humber and West of England AHSNs.

You can download it [here](#)



If you would like more information about the work in Doncaster, please contact [Mandy Dalton](#)

[Contact the Improvement Academy](#) to request further information and support for mortality reviews and quality improvement initiatives.

