

Freedom of Information Data Request No. FOI 03545

Avoidable Deaths by Speciality February 2017 to January 2020 Inclusive

Commentary:

All specialities are encouraged to undertake a retrospective case records review for patients who die in hospital whilst under their care.

At the beginning of this FOI review period specialities were working with an avoidability of death grading as in the table below:

Death Inevitable	Death Probable	Death Possible	Survival Probable	Survival Expected
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During this period only 'Survival Probable' and 'Survival Expected' have been applied as avoidability filters. These two categories are equivalent to 'Strong Evidence of Avoidability' (score 2) and 'Death Definitely Avoidable' (score 1) on the current RCP/PRISM avoidability grading.

By the end of the FOI review period the majority of cases were scored for avoidability using the aforementioned RCP/PRISM grading as below:

Score 2 Strong Evidence of Avoidability	Score 1 Death Definitely Avoidable	Score 3 Probably Avoidable (More than 50:50)	Score 4 Possibly Avoidable but Not Very Likely (Less than 50:50)	Score 5 Strong Evidence that Death not Avoidable	Score 6 Death Definitely not Avoidable
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NHSE/I currently consider grades 1-3 above as evidence the deaths were more likely than not to have been avoidable. It is that definition of avoidability that has been applied in this analysis.

Retrospective analysis of deaths during the FOI review period confirms that an average of 60% of Blackpool Teaching Hospital deaths were reviewed each quarter using the foregoing gradings for avoidability.

Avoidability gradings for those cases that were diverted down the serious incident (SI) route during the FOI review period have already been forwarded in response to this FOI request.

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