

# January Newsletter

A year for improvements - better, safer patient care in 2006

## Welcome back to a New Year

The Safer Systems – Saving Lives team would like to wish you all a happy 2006. This year we will support the spread of improvements to create safer systems and ultimately save lives across Australia.

## SSSL toolkit update

Expert panel members have generously shared their insights, successes and lessons learned to ensure that the interventions are consistent with the latest national and international evidence.

To date four toolkits have been completed and are available on the project website. The final two toolkits, implementing a rapid response strategy and improving care for acute myocardial infarction will be available on 27 January 2006.

Implementing a rapid response strategy replaces the medical emergency response intervention and the required amendments are being assessed.

The improving care for acute myocardial infarction toolkit is being reviewed by the National Heart Foundation prior to release.

The toolkits and data collection tools may be downloaded from the SSSL website. If you have any problems accessing them please contact the project team.

## Useful links

Canada: Safer Healthcare Now!  
[www.saferhealthcarenow.ca](http://www.saferhealthcarenow.ca)

USA: 100K Lives Campaign  
[www.ihl.org](http://www.ihl.org)

UK: Saving Lives programme  
[www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk) (enter Saving Lives in search engine)

## Data for improvement

A key strategy of the SSSL methodology is the collection of data on a regular basis to capture the impact of the interventions. Data are collected for each intervention to assess overall compliance to the care bundle and the resulting outcome in patient safety.

To assist participating hospitals in preparing for the first collection period, the SSSL team held teleconferences with key contacts on 18 January 2006. The focus was on data collection strategies and the presentation can be found on the SSSL website.

*'We are what we repeatedly do.'*  
Aristotle

## FAQs

*All the components of care from an intervention won't be in place for the first collection period. Do we still collect data for this period?*

Yes, all sites are required to submit data for the first collection period. Use this period to test the data collection practices and build the necessary skills across the team. The audit tools should still provide useful data on the components of care that you have in place.

*Are the data confidential? Who will see my data result?*

Absolutely, data confidentiality is paramount. Data submitted through the eForm on the SSSL website are secure. Note that all participating hospitals have been assigned a unique participant identifying number (PIN) and this will provide an additional level of security.

## Important dates

The final version of the toolkits for improving care for acute myocardial infarction and implementing a rapid response strategy will be released on 27 January 2006.

The first data collection period is 1 – 28 February 2006.

Participating hospitals to submit data by 7 March 2006.

Data analysis and run-charts sent to participating hospitals on 20 March 2006.

*Do we collect data for each intervention?*

Yes, sample data using the audit tools are collected for the six SSSL interventions. The data sample size will vary across sites, depending on the hospital size and the scope of the intervention. Each site submits monthly data measures through the eForm on the SSSL website. Survey tools for each intervention are provided to simplify the process.

## Contributions

We welcome any ideas, success stories or lessons learned for possible inclusion in the SSSL newsletter. Forward suggestions to [SSSL@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:sssl@dhs.vic.gov.au)

## Contact us

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