

## Bulletin Theme: Improving Clinical Care and Outcomes in Surgery

ISD's Quality Improvement Programme promotes the use of Scotland's national health data to improve quality of care. This series of bulletins is designed to inform you about the programme as well as other work going on in ISD to support quality improvement in health care in Scotland.

We want to make sure these bulletins are relevant to your work, therefore if there are any topics you would like to see covered in future editions [please let us know](#).

If you know of any colleagues that might be interested in receiving this bulletin then let us know and we will add them to the [mailing list](#).

If you no longer wish to receive this bulletin you can [unsubscribe](#).

### Background

Three clinically led [national surgical audit projects](#) supported by ISD are developing methods and outputs to support clinical governance/quality improvement. The Scottish Arthroplasty Project in particular has developed and implemented an impressive, all encompassing clinical governance framework, for the use of data in improving clinical care and outcomes. This has been operating for 3 years as reported in its 2005 Annual report. [Read more](#).

Surgeons have prompted discussion at national level about how better use might be made of existing data sources to assist NHSScotland improve clinical care and outcomes in surgery. Following from this, NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (NHS QIS) and ISD are working together to produce a surgical profile. This is an evidence-based report, using national data sources, on the quality of surgical services provided by each NHS Board. The purpose of doing so is to strengthen the clinical governance process by enabling each NHS Board to use this evidence locally with their clinicians in order to improve the quality of both clinical care and data. [Read more](#).

These data are from the Scottish Hip Fracture Audit (SHFA) Report 2004.

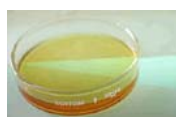
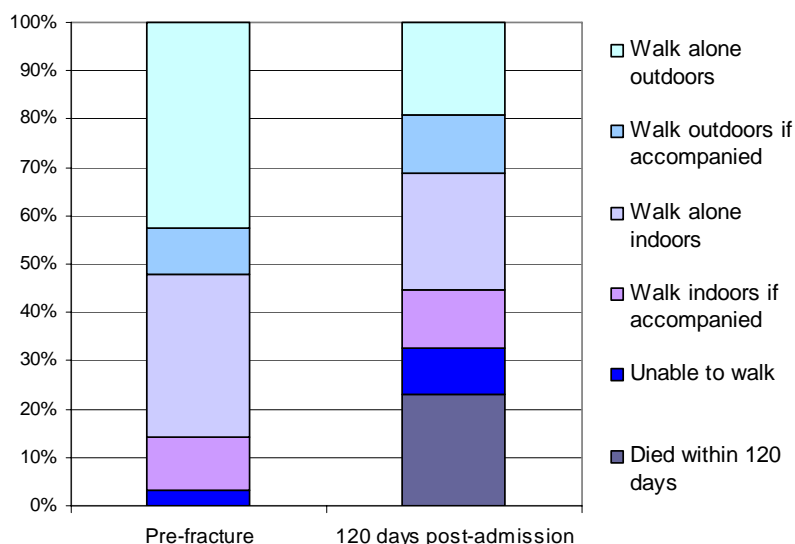
The audit aims to improve hip fracture care by providing robust nationally comparable data on the care of hip fracture patients.

The data are from patients aged 50 and over admitted to orthopaedic care in 2003 (4,047 patients in total). They include 66% of all hip fractures reported throughout Scotland in 2003.

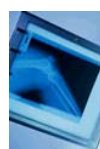
Hip fracture is a common injury in older people with over 6000 cases a year in Scotland in the over 55's. The quality of care of patients has improved dramatically over the past 25 years but, as the data demonstrate, hip fracture remains a serious cause of death and disability.

The SHFA National Trend Analysis report (1998 – 2004) will be out on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2005. [Read more](#).

Walking ability of hip fracture patients (%) at 120 days



The Scottish Audit of Surgical Mortality showed that the percentage of surgical deaths developing a hospital acquired infection varied by 18% between trusts. [Read more](#)



55% of surgeons perform 10 or less revision knee replacements per year according to the Scottish Arthroplasty Project. [Read more](#)

Mortality after planned operations dropped by 1.5% within 2 years as shown in the web indicators. [Read more](#)



Out of NHS patients complaining within medical & surgical specialties, 79% were unjustified or partly unjustified. [Read more](#)



The team would like to hear from anybody involved in improving surgical care. Please email Dr Margaret MacLeod, Programme Manager or telephone 0131 275 6520 to discuss.

Next bulletin theme: Primary Care

If you have any work on Primary Care that you could share we would like to hear from you. Please e-mail Rebecca Kaye or telephone 0131 275 6434.