Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Victorian Audit of Surgical Mortality

Surgical Case Form

Important

1. Please do not destroy this form

2. Please do not copy this form

3. Please return this form to the audit office

By submitting this form to the Mortality Audit, I agree that Australian and New Zealand Audit of Surgical Mortality (ANZASM) may inform the Professional Standards Department of my involvement with the surgical mortality audit, to confirm my compliance with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements.

Surgical Case Form

ANZASM inclusion criteria:

ANZASM defines a surgeon as a medical practitioner who performs surgical operations; that is, consultants, SET trainees, locums, GP surgeons and Fellows (who are not consultants but are continuing their Fellowship).

Case Inclusion

The ANZASM audits all deaths that occur in a hospital where:

1) The patient was under the care of a surgeon (surgical admission), whether or not an operation was performed, or
2) The patient was under the care of a physician (medical and non-surgical admissions) and there was a surgical procedure performed.

Participation in ANZASM is protected by Qualified Privilege as a declared Quality Assurance Activity according to part VC of the *Health Insurance Act 1973 (Cth).*

Exclusion for terminal patients:

Please complete this section for all patients

Was terminal care planned for this patient prior to or on admission?

◯ YES

If **YES** please describe the terminal condition:

◯ NO

(go to page 2 and complete ALL questions on this form)

If **YES**, was an operation performed on this terminal care patient?

◯ YES - go to page 2 and complete ALL questions on this form

◯ NO (this patient is **EXCLUDED** from the audit; do NOT complete this form)

Return this form to the Audit Office.

All identifiers will be removed by the Audit Office on receipt of this completed form:

NOD ID

Sex

DOB

Admission Date

Date of Death

Specialty

Hospital ID

Patient name

UMRN

Hospital

Consultant surgeon

Name of any Surgeon(s)/Trainee(s) to whom individual feedback should be sent

Anaesthetist(s) – please name

Surgical Case Form

NOD ID

1

Status of surgeon completing form:

- ☐ Consultant
- ☐ Fellow
- ☐ International Medical Graduate
- ☐ SET trainee
- ☐ Service Registrar
- ☐ GP surgeon

Specialty of consultant surgeon in charge of patient:

- ☐ General
  - ☐ Colorectal ☐ Trauma
- ☐ Vascular
- ☐ Urology
- ☐ Neurosurgery
- ☐ Orthopaedics
- ☐ Otolaryngology Head and Neck
- ☐ Ophthalmology
- ☐ Paediatrics
- ☐ Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- ☐ Plastic
- ☐ Oral/Maxillofacial
- ☐ Cardiothoracic
- ☐ Other (specify)

2

Patient Age

Patient Sex	☐ Male	☐ Female	
Hospital Status	☐ Private	☐ Public	☐ Co-Located
Aboriginal/ Torres Strait Islander descent	☐ Yes	☐ No	
Admission Type	☐ Elective	☐ Emergency	
Patient Status	☐ Private	☐ Public	☐ Veteran
Patient admitted by a surgeon	☐ Yes	☐ No	

3

Main surgical diagnosis on admission *(as suspected by clinicians after initial assessment)*

Confirmed main surgical diagnosis *(taking into account test results, operations, post mortem etc)*

Final cause of death *(taking all information into account, including post mortem)*

4

Were there significant co-existing factors increasing risk of death? Yes *(tick all that apply)* ☐ No ☐

Cardiovascular	☐	Hepatic	☐	Diabetes	☐	Age	☐
Respiratory	☐	Neurological	☐	Obesity	☐	Advanced malignancy	☐
Renal	☐	Other (specify)	☐				

Alcohol use	☐	Tobacco use	☐

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ASA 1 – A normal healthy patient ☐

ASA 2 – A patient with mild systemic disease ☐

ASA 3 – A patient with severe systemic disease which limits activity, but is not incapacitating ☐

E (emergency) ☐

ASA 4 – A patient with an incapacitating systemic disease that is a constant threat to life ☐

ASA 5 – A moribund patient who is not expected to survive 24 hours, with or without an operation ☐

ASA 6 – A brain-dead patient for organ donation ☐

6

Was the patient transferred Yes ☐ No ☐

If **yes**; Distance (km) Preoperatively ☐ Postoperatively ☐

Transferred from hospital

Transferred to hospital

Was there a delay in transfer? Yes ☐ No ☐ Was the transfer appropriate? Yes ☐ No ☐

Was level of care during transport appropriate? Yes ☐ No ☐ Was there sufficient clinical information? Yes ☐ No ☐

Why was the patient transferred?

7

Was there a **preoperative delay** in confirmation of main surgical diagnosis? Yes ☐ No ☐ If **NO**, go to Q8a

Was the delay associated with:

GP ☐ Medical Unit ☐ Surgical Unit ☐ Emergency Department ☐ Other (specify) ☐

Was this due to: (tick all that apply)

Inexperience of staff ☐ Misinterpretation of results ☐ Unavoidable factors ☐

Failure to do correct test ☐ Results not seen ☐ Other (specify) ☐

8a

Was this patient **treated** in a critical care unit (ICU or HDU) during this admission? Yes ☐ (go to Q8b) No ☐ (continue)

Should this patient have been provided critical care in:

Intensive Care Unit (ICU)? Yes ☐ (continue) No ☐ (go to Q9)

High Dependency Unit (HDU)? Yes ☐ (continue) No ☐ (go to Q9)

Why did this patient not receive critical care? (tick all that apply and then go to Q9)

No ICU/ HDU bed available ☐ Active decision not to refer to critical care unit ☐

Admission refused by critical care staff ☐ Not applicable ☐

No critical care unit in the hospital ☐

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8b Was the surgical team satisfied with the critical care unit management of this patient?

Yes ☐ (go to Q9) No ☐ (specify reasons below)

Specify

9 Please describe the course to death (or attach report)

(use back of form if required)

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10 Was an operation performed during the last admission? Yes ☐ If **YES**, go to Q11. No ☐ If **NO**: *(tick as necessary)*

It was not a surgical problem ☐

Active decision not to treat or operate ☐ → Was this a consultant's decision? Yes ☐ No ☐

Patient/family refused operation ☐

Rapid death ☐

If NO operation was performed, please go to Q18

11 Surgeon's view (before any surgery) of overall risk of death

Minimal ☐ Small ☐ Moderate ☐ Considerable ☐ Expected ☐ Futile ☐

12 Description of operation(s) (including relevant radiological or endoscopic procedures)

Operation (1) Date / / Start time (24hr clock) Estimated length of operation (hours)

Operation (2) Date / / Start time (24hr clock) Estimated length of operation (hours)

Operation (3) Date / / Start time (24hr clock) Estimated length of operation (hours)

13 **Timing of operation**

	1st Op	2nd Op	3rd Op
Elective	☐	☐	☐
Immediate (< 2 hours)	☐	☐	☐
Emergency (< 24 hours)	☐	☐	☐
Scheduled emergency (> 24 hours after admission)	☐	☐	☐

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	1st Op	2nd Op	3rd Op
Was there a consultant anaesthetist present at the operation?	Yes ☐	☐	☐
	No ☐	☐	☐
Was the operation abandoned on finding a terminal situation?	Yes ☐	☐	☐
	No ☐	☐	☐
	N/A ☐	☐	☐

15 **Grades of surgeons** making decisions, operating, assisting and present in theatre

	1st Op				2nd Op				3rd Op			
	Decide	Operate	Assist	In Theatre	Decide	Operate	Assist	In Theatre	Decide	Operate	Assist	In Theatre
Consultant												
Fellow												
International Medical Graduate												
SET Trainee												
Service Registrar												
GP Surgeon												
None												

16 Was there a definable **postoperative** complication? Yes ☐ No ☐ If **NO**, go to Q17

Surgical **complications** relating to present admission *(please tick all that apply)*

Anastomotic leak ☐ site → *Oesophageal* ☐ *Pancreas/biliary* ☐ *Colorectal* ☐ *Gastric* ☐ *Small bowel* ☐

Procedure related sepsis ☐ Tissue ischaemia ☐ Neurological deficiency ☐ Cerebrospinal fluid leak ☐

Significant postoperative bleeding/haemorrhage ☐ Vascular graft occlusion ☐ Cerebral swelling ☐ Endoscopic perforation ☐

Infection ☐

Other (specify) ☐

Was there a **delay in recognising** postoperative complications? Yes ☐ No ☐

17 Was there an anaesthetic component to this death? Yes ☐ No ☐ Possibly ☐

Was death within 48 hours of last anaesthetic? Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐

18 Was a post-mortem examination performed?

Yes – Hospital ☐ Yes – Coroner ☐ No ☐ Refused ☐ Unknown ☐

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19 Was DVT prophylaxis used during this admission? Yes ☐ No ☐

If **YES** *(tick all that apply)*

Heparin (any form) ☐ Aspirin ☐ TED Stockings ☐

Warfarin ☐ Sequential compression device ☐ Other (specify) ☐

If **NO**, state reasons: Not appropriate ☐ Active decision to withhold ☐ Not considered ☐

and please comment on why **NOT** used

20

Was there an **unplanned return** to theatre?	Yes ☐	No ☐	Unknown ☐
Was there an **unplanned admission** to a critical care unit?	Yes ☐	No ☐	Unknown ☐
Was there an **unplanned readmission** within 30 days of surgery?	Yes ☐	No ☐	Unknown ☐
Was **fluid balance** an issue in this case?	Yes ☐	No ☐	Unknown ☐
If yes, was the patient	Under-hydrated ☐	Over-hydrated ☐	
Would it be beneficial for this case to undergo **Root Cause Analysis**?	Yes ☐	No ☐	Unknown ☐
Was **fatigue** an issue in this case?	Yes ☐	No ☐	Unknown ☐
Was there an issue with **communication** at any stage?	Yes ☐	No ☐	Unknown ☐

If there was an issue with communication, please provide details:

21a Did this patient die with a clinically-significant infection? Yes ☐ (continue) ☐ No (go to Q22)

Did infection contribute to or cause death? Yes ☐ ☐ No

Was this infection acquired: before this admission ☐ (go to Q21b) or during this admission ☐ (continue)

If acquired during this admission, was the infection: acquired preoperatively ☐ a surgical-site infection ☐

acquired postoperatively ☐ other invasive-site infection ☐

21b Was the **infection**: Pneumonia ☐ Intra-abdominal sepsis ☐ Septicaemia ☐ Cranial/Spinal infection ☐ Other source ☐

Was the infective organism identified? Yes ☐ No ☐ (go to Q22)

If **YES**, what was the organism?

Was there a delay in treatment of the infection? Yes ☐ No ☐

22 Was the **antibiotic regimen** appropriate? Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable ☐ Unknown ☐

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23 If an operation occurred, do you consider **management** could have been **improved** in the following areas?

Preoperative management/ preparation	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	Intraoperative/technical management of surgery	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐
Decision to operate at all	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	Grade/experience of surgeon deciding	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐
Choice of operation	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	Grade/experience of surgeon operating	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐
Timing of operation *(too late, too soon, wrong time of day)*	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	Postoperative care	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐
Appropriate equipment available?	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐				

24a An area for **CONSIDERATION** is where the clinician believes areas of care COULD have been IMPROVED or DIFFERENT, but recognises that it may be an area of debate.
An area of **CONCERN** is where the clinician believes that areas of care SHOULD have been better.
An **ADVERSE EVENT** is an unintended injury caused by medical management rather than by disease process, which is sufficiently serious to lead to prolonged hospitalisation or to temporary or permanent impairment or disability of the patient at the time of discharge, or which contributes to or causes death.

Were there any issues in the management of this patient? Yes ☐ (please describe below) No ☐ (go to Q25)

24b **Important:** please describe the 3 most significant clinical management issues.

i). (please describe the <u>most</u> significant clinical management issue)

Area of:		Which:		Was the event preventable?		Associated with?	
Consideration	☐	Made no difference to outcome	☐	Definitely	☐	Audited Surgical team	☐
Concern	☐	May have contributed to death	☐	Probably	☐	Another Clinical team	☐
Adverse event	☐	Caused death of patient who would otherwise be expected to survive	☐	Probably not	☐	Hospital	☐
				Definitely not	☐	Other (please specify)	☐

ii). (please describe the <u>second most</u> significant clinical management issue)

Area of:		Which:		Was the event preventable?		Associated with?	
Consideration	☐	Made no difference to outcome	☐	Definitely	☐	Audited Surgical team	☐
Concern	☐	May have contributed to death	☐	Probably	☐	Another Clinical team	☐
Adverse event	☐	Caused death of patient who would otherwise be expected to survive	☐	Probably not	☐	Hospital	☐
				Definitely not	☐	Other (please specify)	☐

iii). (please describe the <u>third most</u> significant clinical management issue)

Area of:		Which:		Was the event preventable?		Associated with?	
Consideration	☐	Made no difference to outcome	☐	Definitely	☐	Audited Surgical team	☐
Concern	☐	May have contributed to death	☐	Probably	☐	Another Clinical team	☐
Adverse event	☐	Caused death of patient who would otherwise be expected to survive	☐	Probably not	☐	Hospital	☐
				Definitely not	☐	Other (please specify)	☐

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24c **List other events**

25 **In retrospect, would you have done anything differently?** Yes ☐ No ☐

If **YES**, please specify

26 Was **trauma** involved? Yes ☐ (continue) No ☐ Unknown ☐

(a) Was the trauma the result of a **fall**?

☐ Yes (continue)

☐ No (go to (b))

If yes, please indicate:

- Fall at home ☐
- Fall in a care facility ☐
- Fall in hospital ☐
- Unknown ☐
- Other (please specify) ☐

Specify

(b) Was the trauma the result of a **road traffic incident**?

☐ Yes (continue)

☐ No (go to (c))

If yes, please indicate:

- Motor vehicle incident ☐
- Motor bike incident ☐
- Bicycle incident ☐
- Pedestrian incident ☐
- Unknown ☐
- Other (please specify) ☐

Specify

(c) Was the trauma the result of **violence**?

☐ Yes (continue)

☐ No

If yes, please indicate:

- Domestic violence ☐
- Public violence ☐
- Self-inflicted violence ☐
- Unknown ☐
- Other (please specify) ☐

Specify

27 Do you consider this to be a preventable death?

Definitely ☐ Probably ☐ Probably Not ☐ Definitely Not ☐ Unknown ☐

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Additional comments

VPCC - Case Classification Proforma

NOD ID

A	**Yes, in my view the outcome was potentially preventable**	☐
V	Failure of communication	☐
W	Lack of timely involvement of experienced staff	☐
X	Inadequate resources	☐
Y	Protocol breach	☐
Z	Other (must be specified)	☐
1	**Preoperative**	
1.1	Inadequate preoperative specific condition investigation	☐
1.2	Inadequate preoperative general investigations	☐
1.3	Incorrect or untimely diagnosis	☐
1.4	Inappropriate preoperative preparation	☐
1.5	Inappropriate treatment delay	☐
1.6	Other (must be specified)	☐
2	**Intraoperative**	
2.1	Personnel issue	☐
2.2	Facility/equipment issue	☐
2.3	Other (must be specified)	☐
3	**Postoperative**	
3.1	Deficient postoperative care	☐
3.2	Failure of problem recognition	☐
3.3	Other (must be specified)	☐
B	**No, in my view the outcome was not preventable**	☐
B.1	Expected	☐
B.2	Unexpected	☐

THANK YOU

VASM thanks you for your participation in this important quality improvement initiative

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