Dear TRN lead,

The next national RAFT project, Drug Allergy Labels in the Elective Surgical population (DALES) is coming together and we now need your help on behalf of your Trainee Research Network.

DALES is a three-day snapshot study exploring the prevalence and impact of patient-reported drug allergies. It comprises both patient and anaesthetist surveys with targeted same-day follow-up for patients with β-lactam and opioid allergy labels who are receiving these drugs.

The ultimate aim is to help anaesthetists tackle the risks of false non-IgE ‘allergy’ labels which are now well established.

ADDITIONAL STUDY HIGHLIGHTS:

▪ no notes trawling involved; patient-reported and wristband allergy ONLY
▪ easy to manage eligibility; all elective surgical patients over 18 eligible for inclusion
▪ an almost entirely paper-free study; electronic patient consent and data collection
▪ no extended follow-up necessary

DATA COLLECTION DETAILS:

▪ local sign-up and surveys will be delivered primarily online via REDCap / Anaesthesia.Audit:
  - patient surveys administered in real-time by data collectors = no need to upload data later
  - anaesthetist surveys also real-time but with paper backup to improve capture rates
▪ surveys are heavily logic-gated to help investigators: no allergies = complete in seconds
▪ all conducted on personal mobile phones, iPads / tablets or NHS Computer-on-Wheels (CoW)
▪ security is ensured via the use of https secure connections and by binding to NHS email systems
PATIENT SURVEY DETAILS:

- all allergies are examined but categorised and logic-gated so that only relevant questions are asked
- minimal free text is involved; extended questions on allergy details are also logic-gated and categorical
- the survey can be completed either the night before or the morning of surgery
- we are purposefully avoiding asking trainees to go through patient notes to hunt for allergies

ANAESTHETIST SURVEY DETAILS:

- a focused 10-15 minute survey that compliments (but is not directly linked to) the patient survey
- both online and paper copies available as we are aware that some anaesthetists may prefer this

β-LACTAM AND OPIOID ALLERGY FOLLOW-UP DETAILS:

- follow-up is highly-focused; only these drugs AND only for patients receiving these drugs
- follow-up selection is automated; investigators with suitable patients will be prompted and emailed
- these can be completed at a later date if necessary
- a short survey exclusively for centre leads will provide final matching denominator data

WHAT DO WE NEED YOU TO DO NOW?

1. TEST THE SURVEYS

Please follow the link here to take you to the test sign-up for the surveys:

https://anaesthesia-audit.scot.nhs.uk/mf/view.php?id=87228

They are there for you to read, complete, query and give feedback on.

Your feedback is requested by the system on completion of a test survey (a short survey on a survey(!)). This is extremely valuable to us and we need to hear your views on the feasibility, etc. of these surveys. Your network’s participation is vital to the success of DALES, as it was with iHypE.

2. RECRUIT TRAINEES TO THE PROJECT

Please start to identify trainees who are interested in being data collectors, hospital leads and regional leads.
3. IDENTIFY A NAMED CONSULTANT LEAD

Each site will require a named consultant lead. This may be the same person as for previous RAFT projects but you may need to identify a new lead.

4. ENSURE ALL PARTICIPATING TRAINEES HAVE OR GET VALID GCP TRAINING

All participating trainees will require GCP training. This can be done via a free online module, the link to which is here: https://learn.nihr.ac.uk/. Many of your TRN members will have completed this already for iHypE.

Best wishes and please get in touch with any queries either via the RAFT networks Basecamp group, WhatsApp or by email: dales@nhs.net

Caroline Thomas on behalf of the DALES steering committee

REFERENCES


