

### **Collection of Follow-up data - Royal Berkshire Hospital pilot**

Since May we have been collecting 30 day follow-up data as a trial to assess the logistics and time required for collecting it long-term and possibly for 120 days and 1 year as well. At 30 days some of our patients are still in community ICT beds so we have been ringing those units to collect superspell data. When we call about this we are now asking about mobility and bisphosphonate usage at the same time.

For those patients who have been discharged home we have been sending out a questionnaire with a covering letter (printed on hospital headed paper) either to the individual or the matron of the nursing home. Using these two methods we have a response rate of 77% overall and from the questionnaires alone the response rate is 66%. This is much higher than we would have expected from a postal survey (usually about 40%). The results come back into the audit department via a freepost envelope and are put onto an Excel spreadsheet, I then transfer the information to the NHFD.

From a time point of view we are becoming more efficient and it now takes about 45 minutes to an hour once a month depending on how many we need to send out (the ringing rehab units is in addition to this and is fitted in when I have a spare moment to ring). Three of us (orthogeriatrician, trauma co-ordinator and clinical audit facilitator) sit down and address and fill the envelopes and it is normally a bit of light relief in a busy week. We have made a few changes to the form to include all the names possible for the bone protection agents as we have had some phone enquires due to confusion over this. Whether we will roll it out to collecting more follow-up data remains to be decided but it has been a successful pilot which we are using to continue to collect the 30 day data.