19 May 2015

Dear colleagues,

In just over one month’s time on the 25th of June we invite your participation in the Society for Acute Medicine Benchmarking Audit (SAMBA ‘15) for the fourth time.

SAMBA measures the performance of your Acute Medical Unit against SAM’s Quality Indicators during a 24-hour period from midnight to midnight. It gives you the opportunity to compare with your peer units. You may be interested to learn that in England the Care Quality Commission is likely to use SAMBA participation when assessing Acute Medical Units.

In 2014 no less than 66 units submitted data on 2333 patients. 84% of patients had early warning scores recorded within 30 minutes of admission, 81% of patients had been seen by a competent decision maker within four hours. 73% of patients were seen by a consultant physician within the appropriate period of time. A lot of hard work in a day, but clearly scope for improvement. Only 55% of patients received care compatible with all three indicators.

I would therefore like to encourage you and your colleagues to take up the challenge of SAMBA ‘15 to demonstrate the quality of care in your unit.

So please: register your team today on https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SAMBA15registration. Once registered you will be sent further documentation for SAMBA’15 and a unit specific link for online data collection.

If you would like to ask questions about the audit please contact the SAMBA’15 team via e-mail samba15UK@gmail.com.

Yours,

President, The Society for Acute Medicine