

**London Ambulance Service NHS Trust**  
**Trust Board Meeting - 30<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

**Clinical Reporting to the Board**

**Clinical Audit & Research Summary Reports for the Trust Board**

**A summary of the RED call clinical audit report (December 2006)**

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Introduction

Earlier this year, the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust (LAS) began a review of the locally upgraded RED calls<sup>1</sup> to explore the possibility of aligning the LAS's call categorisation with the Department of Health's (DH) categorisation. As part of this review, fifteen determinants relating to allergic reactions, back pain, breathing problems, burns, cardiac/respiratory arrest or death, choking, convulsions, heart problems, stroke and traffic accidents were audited. The aim of this clinical audit was to provide evidence to inform decisions about the clinical safety of downgrading the selected determinants to an AMBER response.

Method

The clinical audit compared the determinant codes and categorisation of the 999 call with information from the Patient Report Form about the patient's condition and survival status. Further information about patient outcomes was derived from the National Strategic Tracing Service. A set of criteria were established by the Medical Director, Assistant Director of Urgent Care & Clinical Development, Head of Clinical Audit & Research and Clinical Audit Co-ordinator, for use in recommending whether or not an audited determinant could be safely downgraded. All criteria needed to be met within the set parameters for a determinant to be recommended for re-categorisation (see Table 1).

Summary of results

Table 1 presents a summary of the results. Five determinants met all of the criteria and were therefore identified as suitable for downgrading to an AMBER response:

- 2B1: Allergic reactions – status of patient unknown
- 5D1: Back pain – not alert
- 6D3: Breathing problems – clammy
- 11D2: Choking – abnormal breathing
- 12B1: Convulsions/ fitting – breathing regularly not verified (under 35 years old).

The remaining 10 determinants did not meet the criteria largely due to the presence of a high number of time critical factors. It is recommended that the remaining 10 determinants continue to receive a RED response and that the evidence produced for these determinants are submitted to the DH for consideration in the national programme of work.

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<sup>1</sup> those determinants that are provided a Category A response by the LAS but the DH only require a Category B response

Table 1: Summary of findings

Re-categorisation criteria	Determinant code														
	2B1	5D1	6D3	7C2	9B1e	11D2	12B1	12C2	12C3	19C2	28C2	29B2	29B3	29D1	29D2c
Total time critical factors <10%	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Cardiac arrest/ ALS & BLS <1%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Airway and respiratory management <2.5%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Myocardial Infarction <1%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Decreased consciousness <5% (trauma) or <2.5% (medical)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Hypotension <2.5% (trauma only)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Suitable for downgrading to AMBER response?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

**Key:**

- 2B1 Allergic reaction – unknown status
- 5D1 Back pain – not alert
- 6D3 Breathing problems – clammy
- 7C2 Burns – difficulty breathing
- 9B1e Cardiac/respiratory arrest or death – obvious death (non-recent)
- 11D2 Choking – abnormal breathing
- 12B1 Convulsions/fitting – breathing regularly not verified (under 35 years old)
- 12C2 Convulsions/fitting – diabetic
- 12C3 Convulsions/fitting – cardiac history
- 19C2 Heart problems – abnormal breathing
- 28C2 Stroke – abnormal breathing
- 29B2 Traffic/transportation accident – multiple patients (one ambulance)
- 29B3 Traffic/transportation accident – multiple patients (additional ambulances)
- 29D1 Traffic/transportation accident – multiple response incident
- 29D2c Traffic/transportation accident – vehicle vs. pedestrian