Evaluating the work of the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS Cymru)

EMRTS Cymru in partnership with The Farr Institute and the SAIL Databank at Swansea University are carrying out a three-year study which will follow patients from time of incident, throughout hospital care and to calculate post care health status. Studying this data is seen as a vital part of the development and growth of service.

The Challenge:
EMRTS Cymru provides pioneering emergency medical care across Wales. The Service is made up of consultants, and Critical Care Practitioners (CCP) who are able to deliver emergency treatments previously not available outside of a hospital environment. The EMRTS medics travel on board the Wales Air Ambulance Charity helicopters and in a fleet of Rapid Response Vehicles which enable them to reach the scene of a medical emergency as fast as possible. The service is a partnership between the Wales Air Ambulance Charity, NHS Wales and the Welsh Government. More details can be found at: www.emrts.wales.nhs.uk

Studying data is seen as a vital part of the development and growth of EMRTS Cymru. This work is undertaken in partnership with The Farr Institute and the SAIL Databank at Swansea University. SAIL Databank removes the identities of all the people in the study (to protect their privacy) and allows the information to be studied by a team of researchers.

The Research:
The three-year study will follow patients from time of incident, throughout hospital care and to calculate post care health status. Electronic reporting forms will be used to measure incident details, patient vitals and all treatments/procedures pre hospital, creating a rich source of data for EMRTS.

Following discharge from hospital patients will be interviewed six months and one-year post incident for longer-term functional and quality of life outcomes.

The Challenge:
Results will include rate of survival, effect on length of hospital stay, time to definitive care, the use and appropriateness of EMRTS specific interventions and functional and quality of life outcomes.

The Impact:
Dr David Rawlinson, EMRTS Cymru Clinical Informatics Manager, said: “As a service that has, and continues to, introduce many different innovations in critical care it is important that we continually assess and evaluate what we do. This includes the analysis of our mission data. Not only does it inform the evolution of EMRTS Cymru but, because of the international interest in what we do, it also allows us to support other similar services across the world.”

For more information visit:
http://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/22/Suppl_2/A214.2

Enquiries to Sarah Toomey, Communications Officer, Farr Institute CIPHER, s.toomey@swansea.ac.uk

Produced by The Farr Institute of Health Informatics Research
www.farrinstitute.org