

9 January 2015

Update on new database upgrade

Solving initial issues:

The database was launched this week and as we had predicted there were some initial problems. We have been working on these and solved the major one and will soon solve the others.

The biggest problem was that the database would not run under old versions of Internet Explorer. It seems that the NHS has fallen behind the rest of the world and uses very old versions. If you tried using the database with an older version of Internet Explorer you would have been unable to move around the patient pages as none of the inactive tabs would respond. This is now fixed and the database re-launched. My tests show it now works fine.

However be warned that all data fields are now mandatory so you cannot move out of a page without completing all the data. The database will lock the other tabs until data is complete. This will ensure we solve the problem with poor quality data.

Also be aware that new fields have been added to the consultation page and these are:

- Smoking status
- Height
- Weight.

This was the recommendation of the scientific group, so we will be able to provide valid demographic background data on our patients.

Clearly the combination of new data to find and the fact that the data has to be complete to allow the user to move between pages has created a challenge for some people, as they may not have access to these details. Consequently the solution is that these data (Smoking status, Height and Weight), must be accurately entered for any new patients from 1st Jan 2015 onwards and will form part of data scrutiny. However old patients who have been entered prior to 1st Jan 2015 can have spurious measurements entered. If you do not have the correct data for a patient prior to this year please enter:

Smoking: **NEVER SMOKED**
Height (meters): **5**
Weight (kilograms): **1**
BMI will automatically calculate 0

Then save the page and you can move on. We will interpret these findings as the same as blank fields in any future analysis. However where you do know the smoking and height and weight enter it correctly. **New patients from 1st Jan 2015 must have a correct smoking and height and weight entered.**

Data reminders have been added to your profile page and will automatically fill with patients who have incomplete data for the complication and histology pages. You will be able to click on the individual patient and go direct to the episode and complete the data. These cases will appear in your profile 3 months after surgery, so we can capture all the accurate complication data prospectively.

At present the computer is loading all incomplete cases and as data collection has been poor, there are now many patients appearing in the profile page and slowing the whole database. To solve this issue I have moved the database to open on the home page and not the profile page. In addition, I have asked the programmer to change this so that only prospective cases (from 1st Jan 2015) will appear in your profile. Initially there will be none but in three months they will start to appear.

Finally those with centre admin rights should look at the new report which shows follow up performance statistics. More information to follow....

Thank you for your patience and understanding, as we introduce these developments. The email system will be the next upgrade in a few weeks' time.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Byrne".

Dominic Byrne
BSGE Endocentre Portfolio chair
BSGE Vice President.