The PhOEBE Research Programme

- 5 year NIHR research programme grant to develop better ways of measuring the performance, quality and impact of ambulance service care
- Identify and prioritise ambulance related outcome measures
- Create a new information source by linking together routinely collected data
- Use the linked dataset to build predictive models to assess what aspects of care can predict good or poor outcomes (mortality and non-mortality)
- Measure the effectiveness and quality of ambulance service care
- Assess the practical use of the measures and the linked data as a way to support quality improvement in the NHS
- Provide better information about effectiveness and quality of care

Conclusions

It is possible to link ambulance service data to subsequent care information. The new database can be used to support audit and research and to measure the impact of any new changes and innovations in how ambulance services provide care, to ensure continued improvements for patients. Allied to this we used consensus methods to develop a set of outcome measures for measuring the quality and performance of ambulance service care, which will be tested within the linked dataset using predictive models

Data linking methods

We developed a data linking methodology that was acceptable to patients and complied with information legislation. Data from two participating ambulance services was processed and linked to other routinely collected data through the NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre’s Trusted Data Linkage Service, which is a designated safe haven for health information

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