

Your email and paper were discussed by the Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group at their meeting on Wednesday 2 October. The Group acknowledged that the use of Naloxone is indeed worthy of further study and, although anaesthetists use this drug in very specific circumstances – reversal at the end of an anaesthetic procedure – there are clearly wider issues related to its use by doctors of differing specialties in other areas of secondary care.

Because of this diverse use, the Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group suggested you may consider contacting the British Medical Journal to offer this to a wider medical readership. It was also recommended that, if you have not done so already, you forward the information to the College of Emergency Medicine for their attention; this was seen as particularly relevant given the circumstances and setting specific to your family member's case.

On our part, we will undertake an investigative action to ensure that the use of Naloxone is sufficiently covered in all respects in the pharmacology curriculum for anaesthetists. Where the Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group feel the issue could be covered in more depth or detail action will be taken to ensure this happens. In addition, several members of the Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group also sit on national committees and boards related to patient safety issues beyond anaesthesia and they will investigate where they may further consider the evaluation of Naloxone use.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Tom Clutton-Brock
Chairman, Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group (SALG)