

## **Community-Based Surgery Audit Pilot Phase**

### **Patient information**

#### **What is the audit about?**

The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) is running a clinical audit that collects information about community-based surgery in the UK. The main purpose of the audit is to measure the quality and quantity of community-based surgery and to allow those carrying out surgery to monitor their own performance.

#### **What information about me will be collected?**

The information collected will include your name, your NHS Number or CHI Number (if you live in Scotland), date of birth, postcode and gender. We need this so that information collected at different times and in different places can be properly entered in the audit system. We will also record:

- who carried out your surgery
- what they thought the diagnosis to be
- the type of surgery
- the results of any tests on tissue removed
- any problems or complications after surgery

#### **How will my information be collected?**

The RCGP has worked with the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC)<sup>1</sup> to design the IT system for the audit. Your details will be recorded on HSCIC's secure internet-based data collection system.

#### **How do I take part?**

The medical staff treating you should ask if you are happy for your details to be used in the audit. If you agree, they may ask for your signed permission. Please remember that whether or not you choose for your information to be included in the audit will not affect the treatment you receive.

---

<sup>1</sup> HSCIC is the national source of health and social care information. It specialises in collecting, storing, analysing and disseminating health and social care data.

## What happens to my information?

It will be held safely by HSCIC, which follows best practice in data protection and security.<sup>2</sup> Your medical practitioners will be able to use the audit system to:

- view the records of patients they have treated
- download the data they have entered
- compare the quality of their practice with that of other practitioners

The practitioner that performed your operation will have access to your information for the duration of the audit even if you change the practice you are registered at or if you are discharged from the care of the practitioner who performed your operation. This is so they can continue to include your information in the reports needed to meet the aims of the audit.

Staff at HSCIC will only be able to see personal details if this is necessary for database administration. If any data are supplied to other organisations (including the RCGP) it will be done so that no individual patient can be identified.

The RCGP will analyse the data and may publish reports in medical journals and on the internet. Other publicly funded health organisations or university departments specialising in health matters may be involved in data analysis. The data may be used for national-level research about community-based surgery and how it compares with other ways it might be provided, e.g. in hospitals. It may also be used for other types of research or health policy analysis, e.g. about skin conditions and their treatment. It should be stressed that no individual patient will be identifiable at any stage in this process. The research will always be in line with the overall purpose of the audit. Your information may also be linked to other datasets, e.g. that contain details of visits to hospital or that are kept by the Office for National Statistics.

## What happens if I change my mind and no longer want my information to be included in the audit?

You can change your mind at any stage and ask for your information to be permanently removed from the system. To do this, please contact the practitioner who treated you or the centre you were treated at. Please be assured that asking for your information to be removed will not affect your treatment.

More information about the audit is available on the RCGP website at [www.rcgp.org.uk/cbsa](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/cbsa) and on the HSCIC website at [www.hscic.gov.uk/cbsa](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/cbsa)

Thank you

---

<sup>2</sup> The data collected are subject to strict rules about confidentiality including those of the Data Protection Act (1998), the Health and Social Care Act (2001) and to the recommendations of the Caldicott Report (1997).