

National Diabetes Audit Frequently Asked Questions

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Information about the audit

What is the National Diabetes Audit (NDA)?

The National Diabetes Audit (NDA) is one of the largest annual clinical audits in the world. The audit integrates data from both primary and secondary care sources, making it the most comprehensive audit of its kind.

The NDA is commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) and delivered by NHS Digital (formerly known as the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC)) in collaboration with Diabetes UK. The audit links outcomes, bio-medical results and annual review information for each person with diabetes, allowing local organisations to track annual review, outcomes and complication rates amongst their diabetic population.

What does it measure?

The NDA answers five key questions:-

- Is everyone with diabetes diagnosed and recorded on a practice diabetes register?
- What percentage of people registered with diabetes received the nine National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) key processes of diabetes care?
- What percentage of people registered with diabetes achieved NICE defined treatment targets for glucose control, blood pressure and blood cholesterol?
- What percentage of people registered with diabetes are offered and attend a structured education course?
- For people with registered diabetes what are the rates of acute and long term complications (disease outcomes)?

Which patients are included in the NDA?

The NDA includes data recorded about all people of all ages with diagnosed diabetes in England and Wales before the audit period end date. Included are people with all types of diabetes mellitus, with the exclusion of gestational diabetes, impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) and impaired fasting glucose (IFG).

Are children included in the NDA?

The NDA continues to collect registrations for all ages from primary care. We do not specifically collect data from paediatric specialist units. The Royal College of Physicians and Child Health (RCPCH) are commissioned to deliver the National Paediatric Diabetes Audit. We work closely with the RCPCH to better understand the care of children with diabetes and the link between the NDA and NPDA. Therefore the data collected within the NDA for children will be incomplete.

Do I need to gain patient consent for this audit?

No, the audit has been given permission to collect patient data without needing the consent of patients.

Previously for the NDA, the Secretary of State, on the recommendation of the Confidentiality Advisory Group granted NHS Digital permission to collect patient identifiable data on behalf of HQIP under Regulation 5 of the Health Service (Control of Patient Information)

Regulations 2002 (known as Section 251 support). However, this should only be used when a practicable alternative is not available. The Section 251 support for the NDA has always been under the recommendation that NHS Digital investigate using their powers to collect the data instead.

From April 2017 NHS England will direct NHS Digital to collect the data for the NDA Programme from health care providers in England. More information about this can be found in the NDA fact sheet here http://content.digital.nhs.uk/media/23985/NDA-fact-sheet/pdf/NDA_fact_sheet_v0.3.pdf

Do patients still have the right to ‘opt out’?

Participation is endorsed by professionals (RCGP) and people with diabetes (Diabetes UK). We ask that services raise awareness of the NDA with their patients, the audit makes available leaflets and posters to help facilitate this. More information about fair processing can be found at http://content.digital.nhs.uk/media/23850/Fair-processing-guidance/Powerpoint/Fair_Processing_-_Informing_Patients_v2.pptx

If a **patient** makes the choice not to share their data with the audit information on the dissent codes to apply to their primary care record can be found here http://content.digital.nhs.uk/media/21283/Read-Codes-for-Dissent-and-Structured-Education-v10/pdf/Read_Codes_for_Dissent_and_Structured_Education_v1.0.pdf

How do I make my patients aware of the NDA?

NHS Digital along with DUK has created resources to help organisations inform their patients about the audit. There is a patient information leaflet and poster for you to display in your practice/clinic available to download on the NDA website <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/nda> . You can find the patient leaflet and posters under the heading “**Guidance for patients**” on the right hand side of the webpage.

Diabetes UK produces a patient-friendly version of the audit reports which can be found at www.diabetes.org.uk/NDA-reports.

Where can I find the published data for the audit?

Report 1: Care Processes and Treatment Targets for 2015-16 was published on 31 January 2017. This year we published the main report as a PowerPoint presentation to help CCGs and diabetes leads disseminate the findings locally. We also published GP practice and specialist unit reports. The report can be found here <http://digital.nhs.uk/pubs/ndaauditcorerep1516>

Reports from previous years of the audit can be found here <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/searchcatalogue>

Who is expected to participate in the audit?

For primary care, all GP practices in England are expected to participate in the NDA.

For secondary care, all trusts with specialist diabetes services in England are expected to participate in the audit.

About the data we collect and why we collect it

What data items are collected?

The NDA collects data items required to answer the audit questions. It collects demographic and clinical observation data for people with diabetes.

For primary care, a full list of data items, including the Read codes used for the extraction, are available in the Primary Care Extraction Specification (PCES). For secondary care, a full list of data items is available in the Secondary Care CSV Specification. Both specifications are available from our NDA collection website http://content.digital.nhs.uk/nda_collection

Why is personal confidential data collected about people with diabetes?

Each Patient's NHS number, postcode, date of birth and GP practice code are collected by the audit. These fields are used to link multiple records across the care pathway e.g. linkage of the NDA patient data to Hospital Episode Statistics, and ONS Mortality data to understand complications and linkage to other diabetes audits such as pregnancy (NPID) and footcare (NDFa) to ease the burden of data collection on services. We also link the primary care and secondary care record received during the collection to create one "best" record per person known as the "Golden Record".

Personal confidential data (date of birth, postcode) are also used to validate the NHS number as no information on the name of an individual is collected.

The patient postcode is converted into Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) once NHS number validation is completed in order to minimise use of sensitive items. LSOA is used to calculate deprivation scores in audit analysis.

The GP practice code is used to distinguish data submissions from individual practices and to group patient cohort for that practice or CCG/LHB.

The next NDA collection

The 2016-17 collection

Provisional Dates for the 2016-17 data collection are **Monday 12 June 2017 to Friday 21 July 2017**.

What do I need to do for the next collection of the NDA

The audit will open for registrations at the beginning of May so that practices can get set up with an account ready for when the submission window opens. Guidance for registrations and submitting to the audit will be available shortly from our collections webpage http://content.digital.nhs.uk/nda_collection

Anyone who created an account previously will still have access to that account. If you are unsure about whether or not you have an account please contact the audit team by emailing diabetes@nhs.net.

GP Practices will still be expected to 'opt in' to participate in the audit. This will mean taking some form of action. We are working with clinical system suppliers now so guidance will be available shortly. The guidance to assist with submitting the audit data for each clinical

system will be available from the NDA collection webpage here http://content.digital.nhs.uk/nda_collection

Specialist services will be required to submit their data through our secure portal data landing. No data will be accepted through Open Exeter. Full guidance to assist specialist services and insulin pump clinics will be sent directly to our audit contacts and made available on the NDA collection webpage here http://content.digital.nhs.uk/nda_collection. If you are unsure if you are on our contacts data base then please email diabetes@nhs.net

Keep up to date with what's happening in the NDA

You can register your details with the NDA team, please include the following: - name, email address, job title, organisation, organisation code, clinical system (if applicable). Email this information to diabetes@nhs.net

Publications

How do I access my organisation's results and analysis?

The 2015-16 report is available here <http://digital.nhs.uk/pubs/ndauditcorerep1516>

The National Diabetes Audit 2015-2016 Report presents the key findings and recommendations for annual care process completion and treatment target achievement, along with the number of offers and attendances at structured education for 2015-2016 in England and Wales. For the first time this year, we have also collected and published information on people with diabetes who also have a learning disability.

A separate report will be published later in 2017 for insulin pump clinics. The data covers the 2015-16 collection for the audit.

The Report 2 Complications and Mortality of the audit will be published later in 2017.

What is the NDA data used for?

The NDA data is used by the following:-

- Right Care Atlas of Variation
- CCG Diabetes profiles and IAF metrics
- CVD Commissioning for value focus packs
- Diabetes Outcomes Versus Expenditure (DOVE) tool – cost effective prescribing

Further Information

Who do I contact for further information about the audit?

You can contact Cher Cartwright (audit manager) or Anna Duggan (audit coordinator) by emailing diabetes@nhs.net or calling 0300 303 5678 please note that lines are open Monday to Friday, 9:00-17:00. For general enquiries please email enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk

We would like your feedback so that the resources we produce are useful to our users. Please let the team know if there is anything missing from these Frequently Asked Questions that would have helped you.