

What are the National Bowel and Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audits?

Information for patients

How we keep your information safe

The organisation providing your care will safely send the information to the Health and Social Care Information Centre where it is securely stored.

We make sure the data collected is subject to strict rules of confidentiality as laid down by Acts of Parliament, including the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The national clinical cancer audits have been given permission to use and store patient data in accordance with these strict regulations.

National clinical audit is most effective when it has information from as many patients as possible. However, if you do not want your information to be used please tell the people who are treating you. They will make sure your information is not used in the audit. This will not affect your treatment in any way.

Who do we work with on the National Bowel and Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audits?

We work in partnership with a range of organisations providing patient care and professional bodies, for example:

- The Clinical Effectiveness Unit of The Royal College of Surgeons
- The Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland
- The Association of Upper Gastrointestinal Surgeons
- The British Society of Gastroenterology
- Patient Charities

Find out more

www.hscic.gov.uk

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The NHS aims to provide you with the best care possible. Clinical audits play an important part in this.

This leaflet tells you about the National Bowel and Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audits and how your information is used to help improve patient care.

What are clinical audits?

Clinical audits are an excellent way of improving patient care. They monitor the standard of care received by patients and record information on treatment. Clinical audit is a regular process of looking at the care provided and asking:

- What should we be doing?
- Are we doing it?
- How can we improve?

Clinical audits look at the care given to patients and provide health care professionals with accurate information that can help them to review their performance. This allows them to focus on areas where they can make improvements to patient care.

Who carries out the audits?

The Clinical Effectiveness Unit at The Royal College of Surgeons manage the National Bowel and Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audits. The Clinical Audit Support Unit at the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) manage the systems used to collect the audit information.

What do we collect?

The audits collect cancer care and treatment information throughout England and Wales to look at the quality of care people receive.

Only information that is normally recorded in your medical notes is used in the audits. We collect information about your cancer treatment and then use your NHS number to track your care wherever you receive it. Your hospital enters your information onto a secure computer database at the HSCIC.

You can find a full list of the information collected on our website:

www.hscic.gov.uk/bowel
www.hscic.gov.uk/og

What are the benefits of collecting this information?

The information collected in the audit will help to:

- identify differences in quality of care and provision of services throughout England and Wales.

- identify good practice and share it with other healthcare organisations.
- check that the NHS and other organisations providing care are following national guidelines.

What do we do with the information?

We use your NHS number to link the information your hospital provided to information from other sources, such as the national radiotherapy database. The linked information provides further details on your treatment and its outcomes. The linked information is anonymised so you cannot be identified.

Your information is analysed with information from other hospitals in England and Wales. The analysis is used to produce audit reports.

The audit reports are published every year to check progress and assess what improvements have been made. The reports are publicly available on our website: www.hscic.gov.uk

Data collected may be shared in an anonymous format for agreed research purposes, for example:

- defining audit standards
- publishing papers in medical journals to provide information about the best standards of care
- providing information for public health, eg. studying the effects of early diagnosis initiatives.