

NPCA

National Prostate Cancer Audit

Patient Information Leaflet

What is the National Prostate Cancer Audit?

This is a national clinical audit assessing the quality of services and care provided to men with prostate cancer in England and Wales. The National Prostate Cancer Audit collects clinical information about the treatment of all patients newly diagnosed with prostate cancer in England and Wales and information about their outcomes. The Audit's findings will give us a better understanding of how patients are being looked after. This will help NHS hospitals to improve the care they provide to prostate cancer patients.

What is clinical audit?

Clinical audit is a method that health care professionals use to look at and improve patient care by comparing how patients are treated and the outcomes of care against set standards and guidelines.

In a clinical audit, information on the care received by patients is collected and analysed to see if individual clinicians and hospitals are following national clinical standards, such as those published by the [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\)](#). These audits also produce information for hospitals to compare their outcomes of care with other hospitals.

Who is running the NPCA?

The national clinical audit is run by the Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU) of The Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCS), the British Association of Urological Surgeons and the British Uro-oncology Group. We are funded by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) as part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme. The day to day running of the NPCA is based at the RCS and is managed by a project team including clinicians, audit experts and cancer information specialists.

Why is the NPCA looking at the care of men with prostate cancer?

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men with over 46,000 new cases diagnosed each year in the United Kingdom. One in eight men will get prostate cancer in their lifetime and over 330,000 men are living with prostate cancer.

We want to make sure that men with prostate cancer receive the best care throughout England and Wales. We communicate our findings to hospitals about the areas of prostate cancer care they are doing well in and where they could improve. The results will also be available to the public and patients.



Who takes part in the NPCA?

All NHS hospitals in England and Wales that offer prostate cancer care participate in NPCA.

Which patients are included in the NPCA?

The NPCA started on the 1st April 2013. Collection of clinical information for all men diagnosed with prostate cancer started on 1st April 2014 in England and one year later, on 1st April 2015, in Wales.

What information is collected?

We use information about patients that is collected by national organisations in England and Wales. These organisations include the [National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service \(NCRAS\)](#) in England and the [Wales Cancer Network](#). These organisations are allowed to collect data on patients diagnosed with cancer. Information on how to opt out of data collection is provided [here](#).

Who will benefit from this audit?

The aim of the audit is to improve the care received by patients with prostate cancer. We will do this by making recommendations to prostate cancer services based on our findings. For example, the NPCA may make recommendations on:

- How men are diagnosed
- The treatment men receive
- The use of surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy
- Outcomes following treatment

We will make the results of the audit publicly available, including on our website:

www.npca.org.uk.



How are patients involved in the NPCA?

We work closely with patient representatives on many aspects throughout the project, from deciding what information to collect to how the results are reported.

Want to know more?

If you would like more information on the audit please get in touch.

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