

NPCA Newsletter, Spring 2019

Data collection update for the NPCA: dataset changes from 1st April 2019

The NPCA team wrote to you 15.01.19 with the news that following discussion and feedback from clinical teams in trusts, we had decided to discontinue the collection and submission of the MDS3 part of the NPCA dataset. In keeping with the NPCA's desire to avoid data duplication and move towards an approach where providers do not have to collect data solely for the purposes of the audit, we have decided to cease the collection of the NPCA data items in MDS1 and MDS2. The NPCA will now focus on the COSD data submissions only, alongside other datasets collected by the National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service (NCRAS). This mirrors the approach of the National Lung Cancer Audit (NLCA) and the National Audit of Breast Cancer in Older Patients (NABCOP).

Please continue to collect the NPCA dataset (MDS1 and MDS2 only) for all patients diagnosed up to 31 March 2019, in order for us to report on these data in the 2020 Annual Report. We would like all trusts to ensure that all data for these patients are submitted in the NPCA dataset submissions to NCRAS by 14 October 2019. For patients diagnosed 1 April 2019 onwards, please continue to submit COSD data for all prostate cancer patients to NCRAS in your routine monthly updates.

The changes to the NPCA minimum dataset are illustrated in the attached document. We will utilise a list of key COSD data items for the NPCA reporting. You are probably collecting many of these data items already and sending to NCRAS in your monthly COSD submissions. However, **the completeness of routine COSD data items for patients with prostate cancer is currently poorer than the NPCA submissions for some trusts**. There will be a new data completeness report developed in Cancer-Stats that will show the data completeness of these data items to help you identify any gaps. We will inform you once these updates have been completed so you can review the completeness of your routine monthly submissions of COSD data and make improvements as required.

On behalf of the NPCA Project Team we would like to thank you for all the hard work that has gone into the collection and submission of data for the NPCA and for your continued support. We hope that stopping the NPCA dataset submissions will not cause you any issues, and in fact will lighten your load. We have listed some FAQs below - if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact either the NPCA team (NPCA@rcseng.ac.uk), or your NCRAS Data Improvement Lead listed at the end of the newsletter. We will inform the teams at Somerset Cancer Register and In-flex so they are aware of this change.

The NPCA team

Frequently asked questions

What NPCA data will be reported on in this year's annual report?

In the 2019 annual report we will include NPCA data for men diagnosed 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. The 2020 report will cover NPCA data for men diagnosed 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. For the 2021 report (data for men diagnosed 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020), we will be using the COSD data you submit. As you are aware, we also use the other data that NCRAS receive (for example, pathology, RTDS and HES).

When should I stop collecting the NPCA data items?

Please continue to collect and submit all NPCA data items in MDS1 and MDS2 for patients diagnosed up to 31 March 2019. For patients diagnosed from 1 April 2019, please ensure the COSD data items are complete, focussing in particular on the key COSD data items.

When do I stop submitting the NPCA dataset files to NCRAS?

Please ensure all NPCA data items in MDS1 and MDS2 for patients diagnosed up to 31 March 2019 are submitted to NCRAS. The deadline for data submissions to be received is 14 October 2019.

Does it matter if my NPCA dataset submission file contains NPCA data items for patients diagnosed after 1 April 2019?

No, this does not matter, but these data will not be included in our annual report analysis, as we will be using the COSD data.

How can I monitor the data completeness of the key COSD data items?

A new data completeness report is being developed in CancerStats for the key COSD data items we would like you to focus on. We will let you know once this report is available.

Will the current NPCA level 2 data completeness report still be available?

The current NPCA data completeness report will be still be available in CancerStats to allow you to continue to monitor data completeness of the NPCA data items. Once this is no longer required, it will be removed.

NCRAS Data Improvement Lead contacts:

NCRAS office	Data Improvement Lead	Email address
National	Karen Graham	Karen.Graham@phe.gov.uk
East Midlands	Simon Cairnes	Simon.Cairnes@phe.gov.uk
Eastern	Marianne Mollett	Marianne.Mollett@phe.gov.uk
London	Katrina Sung	Katrina.Sung@phe.gov.uk
North West	Simon Cairnes	Simon.Cairnes@phe.gov.uk
Northern and Yorkshire	Laura Prenton	Laura.Prenton@phe.gov.uk
Oxford	Gemma Feeney	Gemma.Feeney@phe.gov.uk
South West	James Withers	James.Withers@phe.gov.uk
West Midlands	Gemma Feeney	Gemma.Feeney@phe.gov.uk