

# NPCA

National Prostate Cancer Audit

## Privacy/Fair Processing Notice

### What is the aim of the National Prostate Cancer Audit?

The National Prostate Cancer Audit (NPCA) is a collaboration between the Clinical Effectiveness Unit at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the British Association of Urological Surgeons (BAUS) and the British Uro-Oncology group (BUG).

The aim of the NPCA is to assess the process of care and its outcomes in men diagnosed with prostate cancer in England and Wales. By auditing the care delivered by cancer services, we can highlight areas where hospitals are doing well, and areas in which the quality of care can be improved. By producing information for all NHS providers, it allows cancer services to compare themselves with others in England and Wales, and share examples of good practice.

### Where is patient-level data collected from?

The NPCA Prospective Audit does not 'collect' clinical data directly from patients. The National Prostate Cancer Audit (NPCA) utilises the nationally mandated flows of data from prostate cancer patients to the [The National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service](#) (NCRAS), UK Health Security Agency and Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, and the [Wales Cancer Network](#), [Public Health Wales](#), the NPCA's 'Data Collection Partners'.

Through this partnership, the NPCA receives clinical information for every man diagnosed with prostate cancer since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 in England and one year later in Wales (since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015). Data from Trust/Health Board data submissions are linked to selected data items from [national datasets](#) to provide information on the diagnosis, management and treatment of all men newly diagnosed with prostate cancer including staging, mode of admission, comorbidities, surgical procedure or intervention details, radiotherapy and chemotherapy details, readmissions and complications.

All patient identifiable information including name, address, date of birth, address, postcode and NHS number is removed (de-identified) by NCRAS in England and WCN in Wales before they are securely transferred to the NPCA Project Team. The NPCA presents analyses of these data in annual reports to provide information regarding the type and extent of prostate cancer and the quality of prostate cancer services and treatment in England and Wales.

### Data controller

The NPCA is commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) on behalf of NHS England and the Welsh Assembly Government, as part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme. [HQIP](#) and NHS England are the data controllers for the linked de-identified dataset that is supplied to the NPCA Project Team for analysis. Information about the data controllers for the individual [national datasets](#) utilised by the NPCA can be found [here](#).

### Legal basis for processing patient-level data

NPCA has approval for processing health care information (specifically 'date of death') under Section 251 (reference number: CAG 8-03(PR9)/2013) for all patients diagnosed with prostate cancer in Wales. Further to guidance from UK Health Security Agency and Office for Health Improvement and Disparities that there is no longer a legal requirement for processing 'date of death' in England, the NPCA exited Section 251 for England only in October 2020. More information on section 251 is available [here](#). The GDPR article 6 legal basis is (e) Public task and the article 9 legal basis is (i) Public health (with a basis in law). We also use the DPA 2018 Schedule 1 condition for processing.



Royal College  
of Surgeons  
of England  
ADVANCING SURGICAL CARE



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION  
OF UROLOGICAL SURGEONS



HQIP  
Healthcare Quality  
Improvement Partnership

## Patient confidentiality and level of data collected

The patient-level information received and managed by the NPCA team is treated as confidential. When analysing the data to produce the information on patient care and outcomes, the NPCA team use de-identified data and so individual patients are not identifiable.

The NPCA is also careful when publishing information to include graphs or tables that do not allow individuals to be identified. To ensure this, the Audit follows guidelines on publishing statistics issued by the [Office for National Statistics - Review of the Dissemination of Health Statistics: Confidentiality Guidance \(PDF\)](#).

## Management of patient-level data by the NPCA team

The NPCA Project Team are based at the Clinical Effectiveness Unit, the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCS). The RCS has strict security measures in place to safeguard the use and storage of de-identified patient-level information, which is handled in accordance with the GDPR. All de-identified data extracts are stored on a password protected encrypted server at the RCS with restricted access to named analysts in the NPCA project team.

## Who do we share data with?

The NPCA only shares patient-level data following a strict governance procedure to ensure compliance with the GDPR. Researchers may apply to the NPCA Data Controller (HQIP & NHS England) if they want to use the patient data for a research study. These requests undergo a stringent approval process as outlined [here](#).

## What if I do not want my patient-level information used by the Audit?

The [National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service \(NCRAS\)](#) in England and the [Wales Cancer Network](#) are allowed to collect data on patients diagnosed with cancer. Information on how to opt out of data collection is provided [here](#).

## Provider team contact information held by the NPCA

The NPCA holds contact information (name, email address and hospital name) for key members of each extended provider team (Clinical Lead, MDT coordinator, audit department and cancer services designated contacts). This information enables the NPCA to distribute newsletters with important updates about the audit, to administer organisational audit updates and the prospective audit outlier process.

Our legal basis for collecting and processing contact information is legitimate interest, which is handled in accordance with the GDPR and will not be used for any other purpose without consent. If you believe that any contact information we are holding on you is incorrect or incomplete, please contact us as soon as possible. We will promptly correct any information found to be incorrect.

## Changes to our privacy policy

We keep our privacy policy under regular review and we will always include the latest version on this web page. This privacy policy was last updated on 18.07.23.

## Want to know more?

Please contact us by [email](#) if you have any questions about our privacy policy or information we hold about you.

Information about the requirements for the Audit to keep personal data secure and what to do to report a data breach can be found on the website of the [Information Commissioners Office](#).

## National Prostate Cancer Audit

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