



Royal College
of Physicians

NACAP

**National Asthma and
COPD Audit Programme (NACAP)**
Secondary care – adult asthma audit

Information for patients





What is the NACAP secondary care (hospital) adult asthma audit?

Clinical audits ask questions about the care provided to patients, such as:

- > What should we be doing?
- > What are we doing?
- > How can we improve?

This audit looks at the care people with asthma get in hospital. The information collected will be compared with a set of asthma guidelines.

What information is collected?

From November 2018 NHS hospitals in England, Scotland and Wales that admit people with asthma attacks will collect:

- > personal (confidential) information
- > information about the treatment and care you get.

More information on what we collect is on our website: www.rcplondon.ac.uk/nacap-adult-asthma

Why is this helpful?

The information collected will show which parts of asthma care are good and which parts need improving. The audit will also help to make sure that information on the quality of care is available to the public.

What confidential information is collected?

Your NHS/CHI (Scotland only) number (everyone has a unique number that is used by the NHS), date of birth and postcode. We will also collect your gender and ethnicity.

Why is it necessary to collect confidential information?

Confidential details are needed so information collected by this audit can be linked with other sources.



We do this so we can follow your care if you are treated at different times and in different places. We collect gender and ethnicity to find out if this affects the treatment people get.

How do we keep your information safe?

We always ensure those we agree to share data with have appropriate legal approvals in place, and follow best practice in data protection and security.

Where does my confidential information go?

Hospitals taking part in this audit enter the information, or data, they collect about patients and their care into an online database called a 'web-tool'. The data will be held there for the duration of the audit (3–5 years) and then for a further 5 years.

The data is held by an organisation called Crown Informatics who create the audit web-tool. Staff at Crown Informatics may see personal details, such as NHS/CHI number, postcode, gender and ethnicity as part of database administration.

Crown Informatics will take the data that is inputted by hospitals, remove information that would enable you to be identified and send it to Imperial College London, who analyse the data. They then send results of the analysis to the NACAP team to produce reports. The NACAP team do not see information on individual patients.

Periodically, Crown Informatics will also send your data to a number of organisations in England, Wales and Scotland to link to other sources. They send NHS/CHI number, date of birth and postcode data to NHS Digital, NWIS (NHS Wales Informatics Service) and eDRIS (electronic Data Research and Innovation Service). NHS Digital has a record of all hospital admissions from the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) dataset in England.

NWIS and eDRIS have this data from the Patient Episode Database for Wales (PEDW) and the Information Services Division (ISD) in Scotland respectively. HES, PEDW and ISD data will be linked to the audit data. NHS Digital will also provide date and cause of death data from the civil registration records on behalf of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for England and Wales. eDRIS will provide this on behalf of the National Records of Scotland. The 'linked' data will then have the confidential information removed by NHS Digital, NWIS and eDRIS. The 'linked' data are then sent to Imperial College London, to process, analyse and aggregate it. The results are then shared with the NACAP team to produce outcome reports.

A graphical representation of the 'data flow' can be found on our website at www.rcplondon.ac.uk/nacap-adult-asthma-resources

How will my information be used?

Hospitals will receive their own reports about the care they provide to adults with asthma. The reports will compare hospital results with the national average. This helps hospitals to see how good their care is. National and patient reports will be made publicly available on the audit website. We may use the data collected to produce academic papers. Third party organisations may also request to use the

data for research, audit and service evaluation purposes. The main use of data will always be to improve care and services for people with asthma.

Normally this data will not contain any personal identifiers (such as NHS/CHI number). However, in very rare cases, we may need to share these for statutory reasons. We will not share any of your data unless the appropriate legal, ethical and security arrangements are in place to keep your details safe and secure and we will never publish information that could be used to identify you. If third parties need more data than we collect in the audit to answer their questions, they may also require a 'linkage' to other sources of information. In these cases, we will send identifiable data to the NHS organisations listed previously.

Why haven't hospital staff asked for permission to use my information?

This audit has special legal permission to collect confidential information without patient consent. This is because it can be difficult to ask patients when they have an asthma attack. Some patients may find it hard to communicate and some won't have relatives with them who can communicate wishes

on their behalf. An asthma attack is a very distressing time for patients, and asking them about the audit at this time would not be the most important priority.

Saying 'no thank you'

National clinical audit works best when it includes information about as many patients as possible. However, please speak to a member of your clinical team if you do not want your information to be included. Saying this will not affect the care or treatment you receive in any way. They will ensure your information is not included in the audit. If you think your information has been submitted to the audit and you would prefer to have it removed, please contact the hospital that treated you or the audit team.

In England, patients who have chosen to opt out of their confidential data being used for purposes other than their own care and treatment (National Data Opt-out Programme) will not be included in this audit. Scotland and Wales do not operate a national opt out programme but patients are still able to opt out of individual audits, such as this one.

Who is running the audit?

NACAP is funded by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) and run by the Royal College of Physicians (RCP).

If you have any questions please ask the hospital staff who gave you this leaflet or contact the NACAP team via: **asthma@rcplondon.ac.uk | 020 3075 1526**

You can find out more about the NACAP secondary care asthma audit at: **www.rcplondon.ac.uk/nacap-adult-asthma**

Commissioned by:



HQIP

Healthcare Quality
Improvement Partnership