



**Royal College  
of Physicians**

National Hip Fracture  
Database (NHFD)

# National Hip Fracture Database (NHFD)

## Information for patients

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### **What is the National Hip Fracture Database?**

This hospital takes part in the National Hip Fracture Database (NHFD), which has been set up to improve the care of patients who have broken a hip or their thigh bone.

The NHFD collects data from hospital-based services in order to see how effective services are at providing appropriate treatment to patients across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In some areas we also collect information from community based NHS services where these are responsible for following up patients after discharge from hospital.

Information is collected by hospital staff from your medical records and hospital computer systems (like the operating theatre computer records) and entered onto a secure online tool provided by the NHFD IT provider, Crown Informatics.

### **What is clinical audit?**

A clinical audit is an excellent way of improving patient care. Audits monitor the standard of care received by patients and record information on treatment. The NHFD measures trust performance against national and professional standards and plans to provide regular feedback to health professionals. This information enables individual trusts to review their performance against national standards and focus on areas where they can make improvements to patient care.

### **Who runs the National Hip Fracture Database?**

The NHFD is managed by the Royal College of Physicians on behalf of the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) as part of the Falls and Fragility Fracture Audit Programme (FFFAP) run by the Royal College of Physicians (RCP). This is a multidisciplinary national clinical audit which is being carried out in partnership with a number of organisations:

- British Orthopaedic Association
- British Geriatrics Society
- Royal Osteoporosis Society

### **What data do we collect?**

In order to monitor standards of care, the audit collects the following personal data items: NHS number, full name, date of birth, sex and postcode. An NHS number is a unique number and this allows us to track the care a particular patient receives and link their data to other national datasets such as Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) and Civil Registration data via NHS England, which provide further information (including date of death) about their care and outcomes of care.

Other information we collect about your care includes:

- The type of fracture you have – which part of your hip or thigh bone you have broken
- Your surgery – the type of operation you had and when you had it
- How long you stay in hospital for
- The type of place you were living before you broke your hip or thigh bone and whether you went back to the same place
- Whether you have been prescribed any bone protection medication, and what type
- Whether you have had any assessments or treatments to prevent future falls.

## How do we process your information?

The data controllers, who have overall responsibility for the collection, storage and processing of personal identifiable information are joint across HQIP, NHS England (NHSE) and Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW). However, HQIP and DHCW do not process any of the data.

We periodically send hip fracture patient only data to NHS England who link the records to Civil Registration data. In order to link the data, we need to provide identifiable data (NHS number, full name, date of birth, sex and postcode) to NHS England who return to Crown Informatics, in addition, date of death data. By linking the data together, we are able to look at more aspects of quality of care without asking hospitals to enter more information into our database.

Hip fracture patient data is supplied to the University of Bristol for analysis every year but this is done so that no individual patient can be identified. Every four months the University of Bristol also receives identifiable data, including date of death, for hip fracture patients who have died following their injury – this is so we can monitor rates of mortality in hospitals across the country for patient safety reporting. Reports produced by the audit will not contain NHS numbers or any other information that could be used to identify anyone.

Data is also sent by Crown Informatics to our team at the RCP; that is so we can review the quality of the data, support hospital teams who are finding it difficult and manage the ‘day to day’ running of the work. This is never patient level or identifiable data.

We sometimes get requests from hospitals, universities and academic or healthcare organisations who want to carry out secondary uses on the data we collect, for audit/service evaluation/research. We always ensure that the organisations that we agree to share data with have appropriate legal supports in place to share data. Sometimes these organisations require data to be linked to other datasets such as HES and Civil Registration data; this is done by NHS England. For more information on data sharing for uses outside of the NHFD, please see: [NCAPOP Privacy Notice – HQIP](#).

## Keeping your information safe

It is really important that we take good care of your information. It will be held safely by Crown Informatics for the duration of the audit, which follows best practice in data protection and security<sup>1</sup>. Should the audit come to an end, it will be held for a further 5 years after that. Staff at Crown Informatics will only see personal details for database administration and have to follow strict confidentiality rules.

## How the NHS and care services use your information

The Royal College of Physicians is one of many organisations working in the health and care system to improve care for patients and the public.

Whenever you use a health or care service, such as attending Accident & Emergency or using Community Care services, information about you is collected in a patient record for that service.

The information collected about you when you use these services can also be used by other organisations for purposes beyond your individual care, for instance to help with:

- Improving the quality and standards of care provided
- Research into the development of new treatments
- Preventing illness and diseases
- Monitoring safety
- Planning services

Confidential patient information about your health and care is **only used** like this where allowed by law.

Data being used or shared for purposes beyond individual care does not include your data being shared with

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<sup>1</sup> The data collected are subject to strict rules about confidentiality including those of the General Data Protection Regulation (2018), the Health and Social Care (Safety and Quality) Act (2015) and to the recommendations of the Caldicott Report (1997).

insurance companies or used for marketing purposes and data would only be used in this way with your specific agreement.

### **What to do if you don't want to be involved**

The NHFD believes that national clinical audit works best when it includes information about as many patients as possible in order to get an accurate picture of hip fracture care being provided. The NHFD is therefore exempt from the [National Data Opt-out \(NDO\)](#). Patients who have chosen to opt-out of having their data used for anything other than their care will be included in the NHFD unless they specifically request not to be included. If a patient does not want their information to be included in the audit they are advised to speak to a member of their clinical team, or contact us on [fffap@rcp.ac.uk](mailto:fffap@rcp.ac.uk). The clinical team will ensure that the patient's information is not included in the audit. By not participating in the NHFD patient's care and treatment will not be affected. Scotland and Wales do not operate a national opt-out programme but patients are still able to object to being included in individual audits, such as this one, under GDPR.

NHFD data is collected under section 251 of the NHS Act 2006. This provides a temporary break in the legal requirements so that for these clearly stated purposes, the audit can collect data on patients without a consent form, which is the usual legal requirement.

If you are happy for your data to be used for the audit, but not to be shared with researchers, when appropriate legal supports have been met, you can specifically opt out of your data being used by researchers by contacting us: [fffap@rcp.ac.uk](mailto:fffap@rcp.ac.uk)

### **Right to complain**

If you think information about you has been submitted to the National Hip Fracture Database and you want to have it removed please contact the hospital that treated you or our team at [nhfd@rcp.ac.uk](mailto:nhfd@rcp.ac.uk).

Alternatively, if you think that your information is being used inappropriately, you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO): [ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint](https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint)

### **Legal basis for collecting and processing your information**

Information is processed lawfully and fairly according to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018 articles below:

- Article 6 (1) (e) processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller.  
This is justified through commissioning arrangements which link back to NHS England, Welsh Government, and other national bodies with statutory responsibilities to improve quality of health care services.
- Article 9 (2) (i) processing is necessary for reasons of public interest in the area of public health, such as protecting against serious cross-border threats to health or ensuring high standards of quality and safety of health care and of medicinal products or medical devices, on the basis of Union or Member State law which provides for suitable and specific measures to safeguard the rights and freedoms of the data subject, in particular professional secrecy.

This is justified as NHFD aims to drive improvements in the quality and safety of care and to improve outcomes for patients.

Information is processed lawfully and fairly according to the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 Schedule 1, part 1, point 3 (public health): This condition is met if the processing—

- (a) is necessary for reasons of public interest in the area of public health, and
- (b) is carried out—
  - (i) by or under the responsibility of a health professional

The NHFD has Section 251 support (reference CAG 8-03(PR11)/2013) to collect patient data without needing to obtain individual patient consent to do so.

### **Need to know more?**

If you would like more information about the National Hip Fracture Database or would like to see copies of the audit reports, please contact us or visit our website.

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