



## National Respiratory Audit Programme (NRAP)

NRAP COPD patient information leaflet

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This leaflet provides information about the National Respiratory Audit Programme (NRAP) for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The audit aims to improve the care provided to people with this condition.

### Key purposes of clinical audits

- > **To track change:** This involves continuous data collection that feeds into annual reports where we track progress against the expected standards of care.
- > **To explore variation:** We evaluate where performance differs in parts of the health system, this includes services (hospitals), trusts, health boards and regions.
- > **To support healthcare improvement:** We produce guidance and support services to improve aspects of care that are measured by the audit.

### What is the National Respiratory Audit Programme (NRAP) COPD audit?

NRAP is commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) and run by the Royal College of Physicians (RCP). The audit collects information related to the care COPD patients receive in hospital. The information collected supports and promotes asthma guidelines, with its purpose to track changes, explore variation and support healthcare improvement.

### What information is collected?

Information about the treatment and care received, as well as some personal information such as NHS number, date of birth and postcode. Your personal information is kept confidential. We do this so we can follow your care even if you are treated at different times or in different places. We also collect your gender and ethnicity to find out if this affects the treatment you receive.

### How is my confidential information collected and where does it go?

Hospitals taking part in this audit continuously enter information they collect about patients and their care into an online database called a 'web-tool' hosted by an organisation called Crown Informatics. Your information will be used in a way that ensures that you cannot be identified. Data collection will continue until at least May 2028. Once collected, this information will never be published in a way that can identify you. Patient information will be kept safely for at least 5 years after the end of the audit.

### How will my information be used?

NRAP produces a range of reports highlighting if patient care in England and Wales follows national COPD guidelines. These reports are then used by hospitals to compare their data with the national/local average and other hospitals. All NRAP reports are publicly available on the [audit webpage](#).

Third party organisations are permitted to request to use de-identified NRAP data for research purposes under HQIP's overarching section 251 research database approval (reference 24/CAG/0108).



### How do we keep your information safe?

Strict NHS rules are in place to make sure your information is confidential and secure. All organisations that handle data for NRAP must follow these. NRAP have been granted section 251 approval for England and Wales by the NHS Health Research Authority (CAG reference number: 23/CAG/0045), meaning that we are allowed to collect patient-identifiable data without patient consent. We always ensure that those we agree to share data with have appropriate legal approvals in place and follow best practice in data protection and security.

### What to do if you don't want your information to be used in the audit?

In England, patients who have chosen to opt out of their data being used for purposes other than their own care and treatment (national data opt-out programme) will not be included in this audit. Wales does not operate a national data opt-out programme, however patients are still able to opt out of individual audits, such as this one - 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 received in any way.***

### What if I have a problem with the way my information has been used?

If you think that patient information is being used when you or someone you care for didn't want it to, or is being used the wrong way, you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office ([www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)).

### Any questions?

If you have any questions, please ask the hospital staff who gave you this leaflet or contact the NRAP team via: [COPD@rcp.ac.uk](mailto:COPD@rcp.ac.uk) | [020 3075 1526](tel:02030751526). Please note we cannot help with medical issues or appointments.

You can find out more about the NRAP secondary care COPD audit [here](#).

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