

## National Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audit

### Privacy / Fair Processing Notice

#### What is the aim of the Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audit?

The National Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audit (NOGCA) is being carried out by a partnership between the Clinical Effectiveness Unit at the Royal College of Surgeons, NHS Digital, the Association of Upper Gastrointestinal Surgeons, the British Society of Gastroenterology and the Royal College of Radiologists.

The Audit measures the quality of care received by patients with oesophago-gastric cancer and oesophageal High Grade Dysplasia within NHS services in England and Wales. It is designed to evaluate the care pathway followed by patients once they have been diagnosed with either condition, and to answer questions related to the care they receive and their outcomes.

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 services, it allows cancer services to compare themselves with others in England and Wales, and share examples of good practice.

#### Where is patient data collected from?

All adult patients with a diagnosis of oesophago-gastric (OG) cancer or oesophageal high grade dysplasia in England and Wales are eligible to be included in NOGCA. Patient data are supplied to the Audit from NHS hospitals, and are stored in a secure IT system hosted by NHS Digital.

To reduce the need for hospital staff to collect data twice, the Audit links these data with other information held in the national hospital databases, the national death register, and the chemotherapy and radiotherapy datasets held by Public Health England. The linkage of the datasets is performed by NHS Digital. The NOGCA project team receives only de-identified datasets for analysis.

#### Data Controller for the Audit

NOGCA is commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) as part of the National Clinical Audit Programme on behalf of NHS England and the Welsh Government.

[HQIP](#) are the data controllers for the patient data submitted directly to the Audit by NHS hospitals. The NOGCA team combines the data submitted to the Audit with information held in other national databases. The data controllers for these other national datasets are:

- NHS Digital for the English hospital data (Hospital Episode Statistics)
- Office for National Statistics for the death register
- Public Health England for the data on chemotherapy and radiotherapy
- Wales Cancer Network for the cancer information on Welsh patients.

### **Legal basis for processing personal data**

NOGCA has approval for processing health care information under Section 251 (reference number: ECC 1-06 (c)/2011) for all patients diagnosed with OG cancer in England and Wales. More information on section 251 is available here: <http://www.hra.nhs.uk/about-the-hra/our-committees/section-251/what-is-section-251/>.

### **How we protect your data**

Local clinical teams enter patient data into a secure web-based tool provided by NHS Digital. Only doctors, nurses and clinical audit staff registered with the Audit can access the data collection tool. Security and confidentiality is maintained through the use of passwords and a person specific registration process. Only the NHS Digital staff on the NOGCA team can access the whole dataset within the data collection tool.

### **Patient confidentiality and level of data collected**

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

The Audit is also careful when publishing information to ensure that graphs or tables 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 data by the NOGCA team**

The NOGCA team are based at the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCS) and NHS Digital. Both the RCS and NHS Digital conform to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other legislation that relates to the collection and use of patient data. Both organisations have strict security measures in place to safeguard patient information held in the data collection system and when analysing the de-identified dataset. The data collection IT system has various levels of security built into it, such as ID password security which prevents unauthorised users gaining access and data encryption.

### **Who we share data with?**

The NOGCA only shares patient-level data following a strict governance procedure to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Researchers may apply to the NOGCA Data Controller (the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership, HQIP) if they want to use the patient data for a research study. These requests undergo a stringent approvals process as outlined [here](#).

### **What if I do not want my information used by the Audit?**

If you do not want your information to be used in the Audit, please tell the people who are treating you. They will make sure your information is not used in the Audit.

In some circumstances, an individual has the right to request their data are erased. This does not apply to an individual's health care record.

### **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. The privacy policy was last updated on 22 May 2018.

### **How to contact us**

Please contact us if you have any questions about our privacy policy or information we hold about you. Email address: [og.cancer@nhs.net](mailto:og.cancer@nhs.net)

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: <https://ico.org.uk>