Dear Caldicott Guardian,

RE: National Asthma and COPD Audit Programme – Approval to collect patient identifiable information without consent

The National Asthma and COPD Audit Programme (NACAP) launched on 1 March 2018 and will deliver audits of primary care, secondary care and pulmonary rehabilitation services. As part of this programme, a continuous audit of adults admitted to hospitals for asthma attacks in England, Scotland and Wales will commence in November 2018.

**Collection of patient identifiable information and Section 251 approval**

The adult asthma audit will collect patient identifiable information (NHS number, date of birth and postcode data) in order to link with data from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Office for National Statistics (ONS), Patient Episode Database for Wales (PEDW), and Scotland’s electronic Data research and innovation service (eDris), in order to report on patient outcomes.

*Section 251 approval*

This audit has Section 251 approval from the Health Research Authority Confidential Advisory Group (CAG). The **CAG reference number** is CAG 8-06(b)/2013.

Please note, this Section 251 approval was initially granted for the national COPD audit (which launched in February 2017), but has now been amended to also cover the adult asthma audit. This amendment was approved by the CAG in May 2018 and the register has been updated to reflect this.

*Public Benefit and Privacy Panel for Health and Social Care, Scotland approval*

A new approval from the Public Benefit and Privacy Panel for Health and Social Care, Scotland has been submitted in order to collect patient identifiable data without consent in Scotland.

**Next steps for Caldicott Guardians**

Hospitals that admit adults with asthma attacks will register to participate in the adult asthma audit – a separate letter has been sent to clinical leads about this. For their participation in this audit to fall within NHS information governance rules, we require your confirmation that all legal requirements for receiving and handling patient data (including identifiable and sensitive data) have been considered and will be complied with by your hospital(s).

1. Please complete the form below and send it back to the NACAP team to confirm this and that your hospital has approval to participate in this new audit.
2. Once Caldicott Guardian approval has been received, your trust/health board’s participating hospital(s) will be granted access to the online audit data collection tool. **Access to this tool will not be granted, until receipt of this approval.**

**Submitting Caldicott Guardian approval**

Please provide approval for your Trust/Health Board’s participating hospitals by **31 August 2018**. Approval must be given by completing the form below and submitting it to asthma@rcplondon.ac.uk with the subject ‘Secondary care adult asthma audit; Caldicott Guardian’. Approvals received in any other way will not be accepted.

**Further information about the adult asthma audit and NACAP**

Further information about the adult asthma audit can be found in the key facts document attached. Alternatively, and for information on the wider NACAP programme, you can visit our webpages at www.rcplondon.ac.uk/nacap.

If you have any queries about the upcoming adult asthma audit, please contact the audit team at asthma@rcplondon.ac.uk or 020 3075 1526.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully,

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Professor Mike Roberts  
National Asthma and COPD Audit Programme  
Programme Clinical Lead

Matt Legg  
National Asthma and COPD Audit Programme  
Programme Manager
Secondary Care Adult Asthma Audit 2018

Caldicott Guardian Approval Form

We would be grateful if you could sign this form to confirm that you are happy that all legal requirements for receiving and handling patient data (including identifiable and sensitive data) have been considered and will be complied with by hospitals within your Trust/Health Board, and you are happy to support their participation in this NACAP adult asthma workstream.

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