



Royal College
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NAIF

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National Audit of Inpatient Falls (NAIF)

Information for Patients

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In association with



Commissioned by



What is the National Audit of Inpatient Falls?

The National Audit of Inpatient Falls (NAIF) audits the delivery and quality of care for patients over 60 who fall and sustain a fracture of the hip or thigh bone in acute, mental health, community and specialist NHS trusts/health boards in England and Wales.

NAIF reviews the care the patient has received before their fall as well as the post fall care. The audit also looks for evidence of examination for other injuries for patients who are found to have a fracture, which is recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence's (NICE) clinical guideline [CG161](#) - and [quality standard QS86](#).

What is a 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. NAIF is a national clinical audit which measures trust performance against national and professional standards and identifies areas where they can make improvements to patient care.

Who runs the National Audit of Inpatient Falls?

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

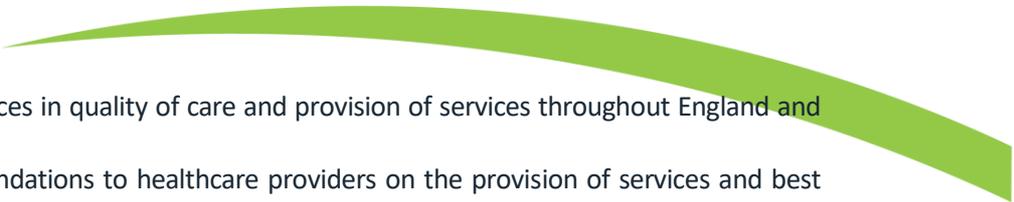
- British Geriatrics Society (BGS)
- British Orthopaedic Association (BOA)
- Royal Osteoporosis Society (ROS)
- National Falls Prevention Coordination Group (NFPCG)

What information do we collect?

NAIF collects information about the incidents of falls resulting in hip or thigh bone fractures for every patient over 60 in acute, mental health, community and specialist NHS trusts/health boards in England and Wales. This includes detailed information on fall risk reduction activities prior to the fall, the circumstances surrounding the fall and post-fall care. Performance of each trust/health board is measured and reviewed against [NICE guideline \(CG161\)](#) and reported on annually.

In order to monitor standards of care, the audit will collect the following personal data items:
Hospital/ NHS number, name, sex, date of birth and postcode

The information collected will help to:

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- Identify differences in quality of care and provision of services throughout England and Wales
 - Make recommendations to healthcare providers on the provision of services and best practice
 - Identify if hospitals are following national and professional guidelines.

Keeping your information safe

It is of the utmost importance that we take good care of your data. There are two organisations that will have access to your data while it is 'identifiable'. These are Crown Informatics, the webtool provider, and Oxford University, the data analyst.

Both Crown Informatics and Oxford University are up to date in data protection and security policies and procedures in line with government requirements. They follow strict confidentiality rules and are not allowed to share your data with us (the RCP) until all patient identifiable details are removed, such as your name and date of birth. The FFFAP team and Oxford University only have access to pseudo-anonymised data.

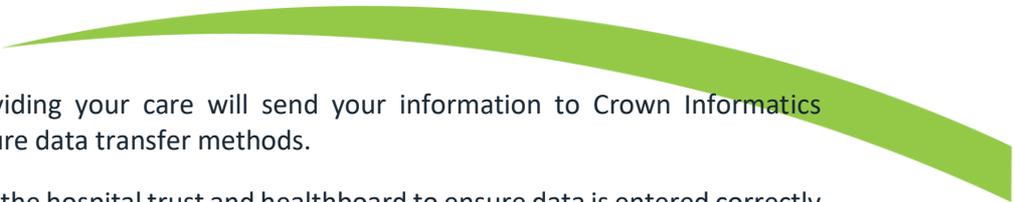
We sometimes get requests from hospitals, universities and other organisations who want to carry out research using the data that we collect. We always ensure that researchers that we agree to share data with have appropriate legal approvals in place to share data. Sometimes researchers require data to be linked to other datasets; this is done by NHS-Digital as described above and the researchers don't receive information that could be used to identify you as an individual.

It may sometimes be necessary to transfer information overseas. Before this transfer is made, HQIP will actively confirm that countries/territories to which information is to be transferred are deemed to offer equal data protection.

Data will be held for the duration of the audit. Crown Informatics holds all identifiable information on behalf of FFFAP. Should the audit come to an end, information will be held for a further five years before being erased from all databases.

How do we process your information?

The data controller, who has overall responsibility for the collection, storage and processing of personal identifiable information is joint across the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) and NHS England. However, HQIP and NHS England will not be processing any of the data.



The hospital trust providing your care will send your information to Crown Informatics electronically using secure data transfer methods.

It is the responsibility of the hospital trust and healthboard to ensure data is entered correctly on the Crown Informatics webtool and that no patient records are mis-assigned to hospitals when they are entered on the database. Every effort has made been by the RCP and Crown Informatics to provide clear guidance to enable sites to enter data accurately.

Crown Informatics will act as guardians for your data and will store it securely. They may link NAIF data to other NHS databases held by NHS Digital. Your name, date of birth and NHS number will be used to link NAIF to the NHS databases. The linked information will help us to check whether NAIF data is accurate. Data linkage will also provide information that will help us to improve our understanding about falls prevention and post falls care.

When personal identifiers are no longer needed for patient tracking they will be permanently removed from a record.

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, important information about you is collected in a patient record for that service. Collecting this information helps to ensure you get the best possible care and treatment.

The information collected about you when you use these services can also be used and provided to 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

This may only take place when there is a clear legal basis to use this information. All these uses help to provide better health and care for you, your family and future generations. Confidential patient information about your health and care is **only used** like this where allowed by law.

Most of the time, anonymised data is used for research and planning so that you cannot be identified in which case your confidential patient information isn't needed.

You have a choice about whether you want your confidential patient information to be used in this way. If you are happy with this use of information you do not need to do anything. If you do choose to opt out your confidential patient information will still be used to support your individual care.

To find out more or to register your choice to opt out, please visit www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters. On this web page you will:

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- See what is meant by confidential patient information
 - Find examples of when confidential patient information is used for individual care and examples of when it is used for purposes beyond individual care
 - Find out more about the benefits of sharing data
 - Understand more about who uses the data
 - Find out how your data is protected
 - Be able to access the system to view, set or change your opt-out setting
 - Find the contact telephone number if you want to know any more or to set/change your opt-out by phone
 - See the situations where the opt-out will not apply

You can also find out more about how patient information is used at:

<https://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/> (which covers health and care research); and

<https://understandingpatientdata.org.uk/what-you-need-know> (which covers how and why patient information is used, the safeguards and how decisions are made)

You can change your mind about your choice at any time.

Data being used or shared for purposes beyond individual care does not include your data being shared with insurance companies or used for marketing purposes and data would only be used in this way with your specific agreement.

Saying 'no thank you'

National clinical audit works best when it includes information about as many patients as possible. However, if a patient does not want their information to be included they are advised to speak to a member of their clinical team. Saying this will not affect the care or treatment they receive in any way. The clinical team will ensure that the patient's information is not included in the audit.

NAIF data will be collected under section 251 of the NHS Act 2016. 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 a patient thinks their information has been submitted to the audit and they would prefer to have it removed, they should contact the hospital that treated them 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 object to being included in individual audits, such as this one, under GDPR.



Right to complain to a supervisory body

If a patient thinks that their information is being used inappropriately, they have the right to complain to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).

Need to know more?

If you would like more information about NAIF or would like to see copies of the audit reports, please visit our [website](#) or contact us using the details below:

Email: falls@rcplondon.ac.uk

Telephone: 020 3075 1511

Further information and contact details

Falls and Fragility Fracture Audit Programme

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