



National Hip Fracture Database (NHFD)

Information for patients

Version 10 June 2020

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 is looking at the care of people who break a hip or thigh bone. We are collecting 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 are also collecting information from community based NHS services where these are responsible for following up patients after discharge from hospital.

Hip and thigh bone fractures are a common injury and caring for patients with these fractures is an important part of the work of the NHS. We want to understand more about the care people with broken bones receive to help make services better.

Information gathered about care in hospital and about recovery afterwards enables us to measure the quality of that care and helps us to improve the services provided.

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 National Hip Fracture Database is a national clinical audit which 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 National Hip Fracture Database is managed by the Royal College of Physicians on behalf of the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership as part of the Falls and Fragility Fracture Audit Programme. 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 do we collect?

The National Hip Fracture Database uses care and treatment information throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland to look at the quality of care that hospitals provide. The information collected will help to:

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

In order to monitor standards of care, the audit collects the following personal data items: NHS

number, name, date of birth 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, which provide further information about their care and outcomes of care. The information that 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 any assessments or treatments to prevent future falls.

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.

We periodically send hip fracture patient only data to NHS Digital who link the records to Office of National Statistics (ONS), Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) and other national health datasets and get details of your registered GP practice via a process known as List Cleaning. In order to link the data, we need to provide identifiable data (NHS number, name, date of birth and postcode) to NHS Digital. 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 Oxford for analysis but this is done so that no individual patient can be identified. The University of Oxford team do receive 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 Royal College of Physicians; 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.

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. Sometime 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.

Keeping your information safe

It is really important that we take good care of your information. It will be held safely by Crown Informatics, which follows best practice in data protection and security¹. It will be held for the duration of the audit. 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.

¹ 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).

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:

- 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.

NHFD 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

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 on 020 3075 2395 or NHFD@rcplondon.ac.uk.

Alternatively, 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 the National Hip Fracture Database or would like to see copies of the audit reports, please contact us or visit our website.

www.nhfd.co.uk

020 3075 2395

NHFD@rcplondon.ac.uk

Falls and Fragility Fracture Audit Programme

Royal College of Physicians

11 St Andrews Place

Regent's Park

London NW1 4LE

Tel: +44 (0)20 3075 2395

Email: fffap@rcplondon.ac.uk

www.rcplondon.ac.uk

