

What are the national heart disease clinical audits?

National Institute for Cardiovascular Outcomes Research
The Institute of Cardiovascular Science
170 Tottenham Court Road
London, W1T 7HA
Tel: **020 3108 3929**
Email: enquiries-nicor@ucl.ac.uk
www.ucl.ac.uk/nicor

ABOUT YOU

Every patient with heart disease wishes to have the best possible care and continue with a good quality life after treatment and this is usually what happens. People with heart disease are now living much longer, more fulfilling lives than would have been the case only a few years ago. This leaflet tells you how the NHS and National Institute for Cardiovascular Outcomes Research (NICOR) work together, making an important contribution to ensuring life will keep getting better for you and patients with heart disease in years to come.

ABOUT US

The NHS aims to provide you with the best care possible and NICOR plays an important part in this. This leaflet tells

you about NICOR, the national cardiac audits and how your information is used to help improve the quality of your care and inform patient choice.

NICOR is part of the Institute of Cardiovascular Science at University College London (UCL). It is responsible for a number of national cardiac audits designed to improve the quality of care and outcomes of cardiac patients. We work with clinicians, IT experts, information analysts, academics and project managers.

THE NICOR CARDIAC AUDITS

Clinical audit is a quality improvement process which aims to improve patient care. The national cardiac audits provide you and health professionals with information to help them to review your care, against national standards and guidance, and the outcome of the care. Reports we publish will never identify any patient.

NICOR collects and manages information for the following national cardiac audits and registries:

- Myocardial Ischaemia National Audit Project (MINAP)
– heart attacks
- Adult Cardiac Surgery
- Adult Coronary Intervention
- Cardiac Rhythm Management – Heart Pacemakers, Implantable Defibrillators and Cardiac Ablations
- Congenital Heart Disease (Surgery and Intervention)
- Heart Failure
- Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation registry
- UK Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation registry (TAVI)
- UK Renal Denervation Registry (UKRDNR)
- National Neuromodulation Registry (NNR)

WHO DO WE WORK WITH?

Clinical leadership for each of the NICOR audits is provided by the relevant professional body including the:

- British Cardiovascular Society
- Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery in Great Britain and Ireland
- British Cardiovascular Intervention Society
- British Heart Rhythm Association
- British Society for Heart Failure
- British Congenital Cardiac Association

WHAT WE DO WITH THE INFORMATION

The information collected is used to

- check NHS organisations providing care are following national guidance. NICOR produces annual reports which assess the care and treatment of patients in England and Wales. We produce reports every year to assess performance against national standards and review improvements that have been made. The reports are available to the Department of Health and Welsh Government, patients and the public, participating organisations, clinicians, and hospital management. The reports are available on the NICOR web pages www.ucl.ac.uk/nicor
- identify any differences in the quality of care in hospitals in England and Wales
- identify when you do not have access to the best cardiac care
- identify good practice and share it with other healthcare organisations
- inform you of the risks and benefits of different cardiac operations and procedures to provide information to make informed choices. The rates of survival for patients who have had heart surgery, general information about different operations, the benefits of having heart surgery and details about what to expect after you have had an operation are available at: www.scts.org/patients/default.aspx
Information on congenital heart disease centres, the number of procedures performed and survival rates is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/b7xwk3a>
- facilitate research to identify improved treatments and interventions. National cardiac audit data may be used for medical research and scientifically related studies but we do not pass on your personal details to researchers. The data has been used by several research groups to identify new improved treatments for cardiac patients
- provide regulators with information to identify hospitals with less good outcomes
- provide commissioners and policy makers with information to improve the delivery of cardiac services

Analyses, reports and data derived from this information are used for research purposes, are anonymised and do not contain any information that can be used to identify you.

HOW WE KEEP YOUR INFORMATION SAFE

Strict security measures are in place to safeguard information about you. We are very careful with the information hospitals provide about you and your care and follow strict rules about how we keep it and who can use it.

The information is kept strictly confidential and stored and analysed in a very secure environment and is only available to appropriate staff. We ensure the information collected conforms to the strict rules of confidentiality established by Acts of Parliament, including the Data Protection Act 1998 and NHS Act 2006 and Health and Social Care Acts 2001/8.

PATIENT CONSENT

In accordance with these regulations and approval from the Secretary of State of Health, the national cardiac audits are permitted to use and store your data without consent. An audit is most effective when it contains information from every patient. Your details help teams to learn how best to treat heart disease, make sure they provide the best care and help find out the causes of heart disease. If you are concerned about your details being used for either audit or research purposes or any other issues in this leaflet, please discuss this with your doctors who are treating you. They will make sure your personal information is not used and this will not affect your treatment in any way.

National Institute for Cardiovascular Outcomes Research

The Institute of Cardiovascular Science
170 Tottenham Court Road
London, W1T 7HA

Tel: **020 3108 3922**

Email: enquiries-nicor@ucl.ac.uk

www.ucl.ac.uk/nicor

