

PRIVACY NOTICE – THE NATIONAL DIABETES AUDIT

The National Diabetes Audit (NDA) is a way to measure the quality of diabetes healthcare in England and Wales against guidelines and standards issued by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Reports are produced and used to drive changes and improve the quality of services and health outcomes for people with diabetes.

Data being collected

What data is collected?

Data about individual patients is collected and analysed but the outputs (the reports produced) do not identify individuals.

The following identifiable data for people with diabetes are collected by the audit:

NHS number, postcode, gender, date of birth, GP practice code.

Names are not collected.

Why is data collected?

These fields are used to link multiple records across the care pathway (how patients are assessed, treated and followed-up), to account for duplicate records, understand complication rates (the proportion of patients that experience adverse events or problems during a medical procedure or treatment) and to link to Office for National Statistics data to determine mortality rates (the number of deaths in a particular population).

Following the linkage of data, the minimum amount of identifiable data required is used in subsequent analysis. For example, postcode is converted to Lower Super Output Area (LSOA – a statistical area that allows local insights but avoids identifying individuals). GP practice codes are used to identify patients registered to specific practices and to group patients by practice or Local Health Board to allow comparisons of patient outcomes (the results or effects of care and treatment). This helps the NHS in Wales to understand whether patients in certain areas are treated in line with national guidelines and whether patients in certain areas have better health outcomes.

How data is used and disclosed

Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW) is a Special Health Authority with specific responsibilities for health data in Wales. DHCW extracts relevant information from GP systems and provides it to NHS England, which analyses the data and produces the NDA reports for all of England and Wales. This is an established process.

From 2026, DHCW will also receive patient level data back from NHS England. This will allow the NHS in Wales to undertake analysis that can be used to improve diabetes care across Wales, such as linking the data collected to deliver the NDA, with other information held. For example, data can be used to determine if people with diabetes in certain areas are more likely to be admitted to hospital, how long they stay and how likely it is that they develop serious complications. This information will not be used to make decisions about your individual care and treatment.

	The analysis will be used to improve co-ordination of diabetes services and provide better outcomes for patients. Reports will be anonymised (meaning you cannot be identified from them) and aggregated before they are shared with people responsible for making decisions about how and where services are provided. The aim is to provided better quality care that makes the most of the resource available to the NHS in Wales. GPs are responsible for data held on GP systems. When they have lawfully disclosed data (as they do for the NDA) other organisations take responsibility: • DHCW for the data collection and provision of data to NHS England and the data it receives back from NHS England. • NHS England for the security and confidentiality of the data they hold for analysis purposes. NHS England's role in the NDA is established by a formal request, known as a 'section 255 request'.ⁱ
Legal basis for processing	Welsh Ministers, via the Chief Medical Officer for Wales, have instructed Local Health Boards (LHBs) in Wales to participate in all national clinical audits, including the NDA, listed in the National Clinical and Outcome Review Plan. As the commissioners of primary care services in their area, LHBs have instructed GP practices to allow DHCW to extract data relevant to the NDA. Without this data the NDA could not be delivered. GPs are required to allow access under the provisions of the Regulations that govern their contracts with LHBsⁱⁱ. DHCW is directed to collect and process the relevant information from GPs for the purposes of delivering the NDA, and to receive the audit information from NHS England for analysis. DHCW's role is consistent with its Establishment Order and Ministerial Directionsⁱⁱⁱ. The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) allows organisations to process data that identifies individuals (personal data) and special categories of personal data (including health data) when certain conditions are met. These are commonly referred to as the 'lawful basis' for processing. In relation to the NDA, your GP's lawful basis for processing this information is: • For personal data, Article 6(1)(e) of the UK GDPR; the performance of a tasks carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority, and • For special categories of personal data, Article 9(2)(h) of the UK GDPR; the provision of health or social care, or treatment, or the management of health and social care systems.
How your information is stored and protected	Your personal information is protected in a number of ways. The information required will be securely extracted from the practice

	system and stored by DHCW on computer systems that have been tested to make sure they are secure, and which are kept up-to-date to protect them from viruses and hacking. Data is transferred to NHS England by secure mechanisms, which has its own systems that are secure and protected from viruses and hacking, and returned via the same mechanism. Only staff who have been specifically trained in data protection and confidentiality will access data and controls are in place to make sure all these people can only see the minimum amount of personal information they need to do their job.
Your Rights over your information	Under data protection law, you have a number of rights over your personal information. You have the right to: - ask for a copy of any information we hold about you - ask for any information we hold about you that you think is inaccurate to be changed - ask us to restrict our use of your information, for example, where you think the information we are using is inaccurate - object to us using any information we hold about you, although this is not an absolute right and we may need to continue to use your information – we will tell you why if this is the case - delete any information we hold about you, although this is not an absolute right and we may need to continue to use your information – we will tell you why if this is the case - ask us not to use your information to make automated decisions about you without the involvement of one of our staff You can access any of your rights by contacting your GP practice.

[Section 255 Health and Social Care Act 2012: National Diabetes Audit for NHS Wales 2021 - NHS England Digital](#)

ⁱⁱ [The National Health Service \(General Medical Services Contracts\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2023](#); paragraphs 85 and 86 of Schedule 3.

ⁱⁱⁱ [Digital Health and Care Wales: establishment and functions | GOV.WALES](#)