



National Maternity & Perinatal Audit

Information for women who gave birth
in this maternity unit after 1st April 2014

How your information is used by the NMPA
(Fair Processing Notice)



This maternity unit is taking part in a national clinical audit called the National Maternity and Perinatal Audit (NMPA).

What is an audit?

A clinical audit allows those providing and using a health service know how their service is performing in comparison to others. The aim is to identify where changes in care will be most helpful and will improve outcomes for patients.

What is the purpose of this audit?

The aim of the NMPA is to study how mothers and babies are cared for across England, Scotland and Wales. It will make it easier for units to monitor the care they provide. The audit includes information about all mothers and babies for births that took place after 1st April 2014.

Who will benefit from this audit?

Women who use maternity services and the general public have access to all NMPA reports via the NMPA website (www.maternityaudit.org.uk).

Mothers and babies in the future will be helped by this clinical audit. Maternity units receive reports comparing the quality of the care they provide with other units, and guidance about ways to improve their services. This enables them to care for women and their babies more effectively.

What information is used?

As part of routine maternity care, electronic information is already collected about all women who use maternity services. The information is used by the staff in the maternity unit every day in the same way that paper medical records are used. Information gathered includes your NHS number, date of birth, postcode, ethnicity and migrant status. It also includes details about the care you and your baby received during your pregnancy and labour and your baby's time and place of birth. For this audit, maternity units will share your electronic information with the audit team.*

The data is kept for 5 years after the audit contract ends. This gives us time to respond to queries using the data. For example, maternity units may contact us to find out more information about their results.

What happens then?

The audit team combine this information with data from a number of different national sources,** for example, to see if you or your baby were re-admitted to another hospital for any reason. Once the data has been combined, any information that could be used to identify you or your baby (e.g. NHS number, date of birth and postcode) is removed. Nothing in the reports or the way they are used will show any information which could lead to you or your baby being identified.

* The audit team have approval from the Health Research Authority's Confidentiality Advisory Group (reference number 16/CAG/0058) to use this information.

** For further information about the data sources being used, visit <http://www.maternityaudit.org.uk/pages/resources>.

How do I know the information will be kept securely?

All information held by the NMPA is stored securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act and other relevant legislation. Only the audit team have access to it.

Do I have to take part?

To be really effective, the audit needs information from as many women as possible but you do not have to take part if you do not wish to do so. If you don't want your care details included, please contact us using the contact details below. We will make sure that the audit team do not use your information. The care you receive in future will not be affected in any way by the decision you make.

What are my rights when you use my data?

You have the right to ask us for a copy of the personal information we hold about you, correct any inaccuracies in this information, and to ask us not to use your care details for the NMPA or to destroy the information we hold about you. Please contact us using the contact details below for this. We will act on your request as soon as possible.

You also have the right to complain about the way we are handling your information. If you think there is a problem please contact us in the first instance, and if you are unhappy with our response you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office***



Are women who use maternity services involved in the design of the audit?

A number of organisations representing women who use maternity services, as well as women themselves, are involved in the design and oversight of the audit through the NMPA Women and Families Involvement Group.

*** More information about contacting the Information Commissioner's Office can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/handling/>.



Who is carrying out this project?

The NMPA is commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) on behalf of NHS England, the Welsh Government and the Health Department of the Scottish Government. The NMPA processes data on HQIP's behalf. It is being carried out by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) in partnership with the Royal College of Midwives (RCM), Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Further information

If you would like to know more about our work, or about how we keep your information confidential, please visit the audit's website:

 www.maternityaudit.org.uk

The Frequently Asked Questions page on our website covers more details on how your information is kept secure. It can be found at:

<http://www.maternityaudit.org.uk/pages/faqs>

Alternatively you can contact us at:

 nmpa@rcog.org.uk

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