

## Where can I see the audit reports?

The audit produces a report every year, as well as patient reports and other short reports. All of the reports are available on our website at: [www.digital.nhs.uk/bowel](http://www.digital.nhs.uk/bowel).

## Which information sources do we link to?

- Hospital Episode Statistics (HES)
- Office of National Statistics (ONS)
- National Radiotherapy Dataset (RTDS)
- Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT, the chemotherapy dataset)
- Intensive Care National Audit & Research Centre dataset (ICNARC)
- Patient Episode Database for Wales (PEDW).
- Patient Reported Outcomes (PROMS) and Cancer Patient Experience Survey
- Cancer Outcomes and Services Dataset (COSD)
- Cancer Registration data
- National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA)



The Association of  
Coloproctology of  
Great Britain  
and Ireland



## National Bowel Cancer Audit: What you need to know



**The National Bowel Cancer Audit aims to improve patient care.**

By looking at what is being done now, the audit can suggest changes to improve care for people with bowel cancer in the future.

The audit compares the care bowel cancer patients receive across England and Wales. One way it does this is by looking at the standard of care patients receive and how successful their treatment is.

## Find out more about NHS Digital

[www.digital.nhs.uk](http://www.digital.nhs.uk)  
[enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk)  
0300 303 5678

## Why do we need your information?

NHS Digital is the government organisation set up to collect and study information on health and social care.

NHS Digital has permission to use and store patient information in order to carry out this audit in line with strict regulation under Acts of Parliament.

Cancer care has improved since the audit began but it is important that this progress continues. For example, the use of keyhole rather than more invasive surgery has continued to increase year-on-year.

Audits are most effective when information from as many patients as possible is collected. So every patient is valuable to the audit.

**The more patients we have information about, the more accurate our results are likely to be.**

**Only information from your hospital notes is used in the audit. The hospital enters your treatment information and NHS number onto a secure computer database at NHS Digital.**

## What does the audit look for?

- Differences in the quality of care and services across England and Wales.
- If hospitals are meeting national guidelines.
- Which hospitals are performing very well, so that learning can be shared across the country.



## What does NHS Digital do with your information?

We use your NHS number to link your information to other secure information sources. This linked information tells us more about your treatment - for example, if you had an unplanned return to hospital.

The linked information from you and other patients across England and Wales is given to The Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) to analyse and use in the audit reports.

**The information is anonymised. This means that you cannot be identified because your personal information is removed.**

We may also provide hospitals with NHS numbers so they can check the information about those patients is correct.



## Supporting research

Your anonymised (non-identifiable) information may be shared for research. For example, it may be used when:

- publishing papers in medical journals to provide information to medical staff on the best standards of care
- providing information to guide public health policy, such as looking at the impact of early diagnosis

## Your right to say no

If you do not want your information to be used, please tell the people who are treating you. They will make sure your information is not used in the audit.

If you have registered for a national data opt-out, your information will not be used in the audit.

**This will not affect your treatment and care in any way.**