

National Vascular Registry

Patient Information Leaflet

Why have you received this leaflet?

The hospital at which you will have vascular surgery is participating in a national clinical audit that is set up to improve the care of people who have this surgery. People who undergo vascular surgery now can expect to live longer compared to having the surgery a few years ago, and the national clinical audit has helped hospitals to make these improvements. This leaflet tells you about this national clinical audit.

What is the National Vascular Registry?

The National Vascular Registry is a clinical audit that vascular specialists use to monitor their practice. Hospitals send data to the NVR and the NVR analyses this to provide information on their standard of clinical care and patient outcomes. This allows hospitals to know where they are doing well, as well as highlight areas that they can improve.

NHS hospitals in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are participating in the National Vascular Registry. The NVR is part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP) and is commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP). It is run by the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland with the Clinical Effectiveness Unit of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

What information is collected on me?

The NVR collects information about the vascular surgery you have whilst in hospital. Only information related to your surgery is collected, such as the severity of your condition, the types of investigations and treatment you receive. The NVR does not require you to have any extra appointments or clinical tests. It does not affect the care you receive and it uses only information routinely collected by hospital staff.

The Registry does not collect information on any care that does not relate to your vascular surgery.

To help the NVR provide an in-depth picture of care, the information provided by your specialist is linked to some other national health databases. This will mean keeping details such as your NHS number, date of birth and postcode to enable the databases to be linked. However, these personal details will not be shared with anyone outside the NHS.

How will your information be used?

The NVR only publishes information describing the care received by groups of similar patients. It does not publish information on individuals, and your personal details will not be made public.

The information collected by the National Vascular Registry is used :

- To produce information on the quality of care received by patients having vascular surgery in NHS hospitals. The NVR produces reports each year that describes whether care is meeting national standards. The reports are available to the public, vascular surgeons, hospital management, and NHS England.
- To share areas of good practice with all NHS organizations.
- To provide patients with information about vascular services at different hospitals, such as the number of operations done each year, and the rates of survival after surgery.
- To help commissioners and policy makers with decisions about how vascular surgery should be organized within the NHS.

Occasionally, the National Vascular Registry is asked to support research to improve treatments. The information in the NVR is only used for medical and scientific research after it has been made anonymous. Your personal details will not be passed onto researchers.

How will your information be kept safe?

The Registry has strict data security measures to keep the information held on you confidential. We follow rules about how the data are stored in a secure environment and that it is only made available to appropriate staff. The Registry conforms to the confidentiality rules established by the Data Protection Act 1998, the NHS Act 2006, and the Health and Social Care Act 2008. Your personal data will not be shared with anyone outside the NHS.

Patient Consent

For people undergoing elective surgery, we need your permission to hold information that can identify you. You will be given a consent form to show whether or not you want the hospital to submit your personal details. Your care will not be affected by whether or not you consent.

If you change your mind and want to withdraw consent, please email nvr@rcseng.ac.uk and put "Request to opt-out" in the subject line.

Because patients having emergency surgery are very sick, it is hard to ask them for consent. The NVR has approval from the Secretary of State for Health to store and use information from these patients without their consent. It is important that the NVR has information from all patients, not just those that are well enough to give consent, to give an accurate picture of the vascular care delivered in the NHS.

Further information

If you would like more information about the National Vascular Registry, please ask your vascular team. You can also email nvr@rcseng.ac.uk, or visit the NVR website at: www.vsqip.org.uk