Breast and Cosmetic Implant Registry
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for patients

Do I have to consent to have my information submitted to the registry?

No. In late 2018 the legal basis for the collection was amended so consent is no longer required for patients having a surgery from 14 January 2019 onwards.

Patients who had surgery prior to 14 January 2019 but had not previously consented or been added to the registry can still request to have their data added to the registry. A consent form need not be completed but hospitals may wish to keep a record of the request.

Which hospitals are eligible?

All NHS trusts and independent hospitals performing breast implant surgery in England are eligible to submit data to the registry.

NHS Digital is commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care to run the Breast and Cosmetic Implant Registry in England. Though the Health and Social Care Act 2012, a devolved administration can make a formal request to NHS Digital to collect their data.

Scotland is in the process of joining the registry. The other devolved nations are not currently in the registry.

Which surgeries are eligible?

All breast implant and explant surgery, including revisions and reconstructions, are eligible for inclusion. The main aim of the registry is to be able to trace patients in the event of a product recall or safety concern relating to a specific type of implant.

Where will my data be stored?

Further information about the use and storage of this data can be found at Breast and Cosmetic Implant Registry GDPR Information.

The data will be used primarily by NHS Digital to instigate a recall of relevant patients in the event of a product failure, and where it is identified that their implant is involved.

NHS Digital may publish reports on the total numbers and types of implants, procedures and outcomes. These reports will only contain aggregated information (i.e. data that has been grouped or combined) so no individual patient will be identifiable.
Who can submit data?

It is up to the hospital provider to decide who in their organisation will collect and submit the patient information onto the registry, which is hosted on NHS Digital’s Clinical Audit Platform (CAP). There can be more than one user per organisation. This may be a surgeon, theatre staff or administrative staff.

The person(s) identified to submit data will need to register to use CAP by creating a Single Sign On Account (if they have not already got one) and completing a registration form. [https://clinicalaudit.hscic.gov.uk/bir](https://clinicalaudit.hscic.gov.uk/bir)

Patients are not able to submit the information themselves.

Who can view data?

Surgeons only need to register once to submit data to the registry. When each patient record is entered, they can select if the procedure was carried out on an NHS site or independent provider site, using the appropriate site code. This is all linked to their GMC code. Surgeons need to register if they intend to submit data themselves, but they also need to be registered to be able to view their patient’s data submitted by someone else.

A non-clinical person (i.e. a “non-surgeon” will only be able to view patients records that they have created/submitted and patients that have been operated on at their organisation).

Centrally, is it possible to have someone (or several people) with reporting access to view all of our provider sites?

In the initial phase, users will only be able to view their own sites, apart from the surgeon who will be able to view all patients that they have operated on. This will be reviewed at a later date for possible future development. It is recognised that the senior management team for an organisation may need to have an overview.

Can data be submitted for a patient that had an implant before the launch of the registry?

Yes. Patients that have had surgery prior to October 2016, and who wish to be included, their data can be submitted. The provider must still be in business for this to be possible, with all the patient notes still available about the implant.

Since the amendment to the legal basis in late 2018, a consent form need not be completed if a historical patient requests to have their data added to the registry. However, hospitals may wish to keep a record of the request.

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If the hospital that performed the surgery no longer exists patients should contact enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk or 0300 303 5678 and the registry team will deal with the enquiry.

What happens in the event of a recall?

If for patient safety reasons there is a need to contact patients and recall them for assessment, then details from the registry will be used by NHS Digital to attempt to trace the patients’ current address using records held on the NHS Spine.

The organisation that carried out the surgery will then be provided with the patients current address, where available, so that the provider can contact their patients and arrange for the appropriate steps to be taken to ensure patient safety.

How do I find out if I am in the registry and what information is held about me?

Contact enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk or 0300 303 5678. They can guide you through a Subject Access Request.