Why have you received this information leaflet?

Your hospital is taking part in an important project to check that people with diabetes are being provided with good care. This project collects information about certain uncommon complications that may occur when a person with diabetes stays in hospital. The information that we collect will help your hospital know if they need to improve the care for inpatients with diabetes.

The audit is managed by NHS Digital, working in collaboration with Diabetes UK. Expert help is provided by clinical teams across England and Wales.

What information about you is collected?

There are four uncommon complications which might happen in people with diabetes during an inpatient stay.

- Severe Hypoglycaemic episodes (very low blood glucose level).
- Diabetic Keto Acidosis or DKA (consistently high blood glucose levels leading to a build-up of acidic ketone. Mainly occurs in people with Type 1 diabetes).
- Hyperosmolar Hyperglycaemic State or HHS (consistently high blood glucose levels caused by a combination of dehydration and illness e.g. infection. Mainly occurs in people Type 2 diabetes).
- New foot ulcers during an inpatient period.

For more information about these complications please visit: www.diabetes.org.uk/guide-to-diabetes/complications

We want to know about how often these uncommon complications happen. We will not collect information on any care that does not relate to these complications.

How is the information used?

The information we collect about you is studied along with the information from all the other services in England.

The information we collect about you, together with your NHS number, will be sent to NHS Digital using a secure website. With these we can link to other information related to your diabetes care that is collected at hospitals and clinics. Specifically, the information may be linked to:

- Other diabetes audits such as the National Diabetes Audit which collects information such as your HbA1c and blood pressure (from the National Diabetes Audit).
- The Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) database, which includes information on outpatient appoints, visits to A&E and other hospital admissions.
- A national register of death collected by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).
Once your information has been linked, your NHS number will be removed, making the data anonymous so that you cannot be identified by anyone. Your anonymous information may be used for audit and research to improve diabetes care.

Information that we publish or share will never identify a particular person. We may share some information for research purposes as long as this is allowed by law and meets the strict rules that are in place to protect your privacy.

How will your information be kept safe?

There are very strict rules about what happens to your information. Staff at your hospital will enter your information into a very secure website that is password protected.

Outside of the hospital staff, only a very small number of specially restricted staff at NHS Digital will be able to see your information.

All data collected and used in this study will be reviewed after 5 years from the end of the study.

Saying ‘no thanks’

If you do not want your information to be used, please inform your clinical staff in the first instance. They will make sure that this is noted on your medical records, so your information is not included.

Further information

For more detail and to see the previous audit reports please visit our website: https://digital.nhs.uk/diabetesinpatientaudit

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