National Diabetes Audit Frequently Asked Questions

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Information about the audit

What is the National Diabetes Audit (NDA)?
The National Diabetes Audit (NDA) is one of the largest annual clinical audits in the world. The audit integrates data from both primary and secondary care sources, making it the most comprehensive audit of its kind.

The NDA is part of the National Clinical Audit Programme which is funded by NHS England, managed by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) and delivered by NHS Digital (formerly known as the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC)) in collaboration with Diabetes UK. The audit links outcomes, bio-medical results and annual review information for each person with diabetes, allowing local organisations to track annual review, outcomes and complication rates amongst their diabetic population.

What does it measure?
The NDA answers five key questions:

- Is everyone with diabetes diagnosed and recorded on a practice diabetes register?
- What percentage of people registered with diabetes received the nine National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) key processes of diabetes care?
- What percentage of people registered with diabetes achieved NICE defined treatment targets for glucose control, blood pressure and blood cholesterol?
- What percentage of people registered with diabetes are offered and attend a structured education course?
- For people with registered diabetes what are the rates of acute and long-term complications (disease outcomes)?

Which patients are included in the NDA?
The NDA includes data recorded about all people of all ages with diagnosed diabetes in England and Wales before the audit period end date. Included are people with all types of diabetes mellitus, with the exclusion of gestational diabetes.

The NDA collects information on people who are at high risk of developing diabetes, either with a diagnosis of non-diabetic hyperglycaemia, impaired glucose tolerance or pre-diabetes. Information about referral and attendance on the Diabetes Prevention Programme (DPP) will also be extracted. The data will be collected as part of the NDA primary care extract.

Are children included in the NDA?
The NDA continues to collect registrations for all ages from primary care. We do not specifically collect data from paediatric specialist units. The Royal College of Physicians and Child Health (RCPCH) are commissioned to deliver the National Paediatric Diabetes Audit. We work closely with the RCPCH to better understand the care of children with diabetes and
the link between the NDA and NPDA. The data collected within the NDA for children will therefore be incomplete.

**Do I need to gain patient consent for this audit?**

No, the audit has been given permission to collect patient data without needing the consent of patients.

NHS England directed NHS Digital to collect the data for the NDA Programme from health care providers in England. More information about this can be found in the NDA fact sheet here https://digital.nhs.uk/binaries/content/assets/website-assets/clinical-audits/nda/nda_fact_sheet_v0.3.pdf

**Do patients still have the right to ‘opt out’?**

The national data opt out programme was introduced on 25th May 2018, which gives a facility for individuals to opt out from the use of their data for research or planning purposes.

The national data opt out replaces the previous ‘type 2’ opt out, which required NHS Digital not to share a patient’s confidential patient information for purposes beyond their individual care. Any patient that had a type 2 opt-out has had it automatically converted to a national data opt-out. Patients can opt out of their data being used for research or planning purposes here.

Participation is endorsed by professionals (RCGP) and people with diabetes (Diabetes UK). We ask that services raise awareness of the NDA with their patients, the audit makes available leaflets and posters to help facilitate this. More information about fair processing can be found at https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/our-work/keeping-patient-data-safe/how-we-look-after-your-health-and-care-information.

**How do I make my patients aware of the NDA?**

NHS Digital along with DUK has created resources to help organisations inform their patients about the audit. Patient information leaflets and poster for you to display in you practice/clinic are available to download on the NDA website here. You can find the patient leaflet and posters near the bottom of the webpage.

Diabetes UK produces a patient-friendly version of the audit reports which can be found at www.diabetes.org.uk/NDA-reports.

**What is the NDA Data used for?**

The NDA data is used by the following:

- CCG Diabetes profiles
- IAF metrics
- CVD Commissioning for value focus packs
• Diabetes Outcomes Versus Expenditure (DOVE) tool – cost effective prescribing
• CQC and GIRFT metrics

Where can I find the published data for the audit?
We publish the main report as a PowerPoint presentation to help CCGs and diabetes leads disseminate the findings locally. We also publish GP practice and specialist unit reports and interactive spreadsheets.
Current reports, interactive tables, and reports from previous years of the audit can be found here.

Who is expected to participate in the audit?
For primary care, all eligible NHS Funded GP practices in England are mandated to participate in the NDA as this is now included in the GP contract. Practices in Wales also participate but are not mandated to do so.

For secondary care, all trusts with specialist diabetes services in England are expected to participate in the audit; participation forms part of the reporting that providers are expected to include in their annual Quality Accounts. In Wales, hospitals are only expected to submit insulin pump data.

About the data we collect and why we collect it
What data items are collected?
The NDA collects data items required to answer the audit questions. It collects demographic and clinical observation data for people with diabetes.

For primary care, a full list of data items, including the SNOMED codes used for the extraction, are available in NDA Business Rules document. For secondary care, a full list of data items is available in the Secondary Care CSV Specification. Both specifications are available from our NDA website here.

Why is personal confidential data collected about people with diabetes?
Each Patient’s NHS number, postcode, date of birth and GP practice code are collected by the audit. These fields are used to link multiple records across the care pathway e.g. linkage of the NDA patient data to Hospital Episode Statistics, and ONS Mortality data to understand complications and linkage to other diabetes audits such as pregnancy (NPID) and footcare (NDFA) to ease the burden of data collection on services. We also link the primary care and secondary care record received during the collection to create one “best” record per person known as the “Golden Record”.

Personal confidential data (date of birth, postcode) are also used to validate the NHS number as no information on the name of an individual is collected.
The patient postcode is converted into Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) once NHS number validation is completed to minimise use of sensitive items. LSOA is used to calculate deprivation scores in audit analysis.

The GP practice code is used to distinguish data submissions from individual practices and to group patient cohort for that practice or CCG/LHB.

Although personal confidential data is collected, it is not disseminated. We anonymise and aggregate data and do not share personal confidential data.

**The next NDA collection**

**The 2018-19 collection**

The National Diabetes Audit (Core Audit) collects information from general practices (via the GPES service), and from specialist diabetes out-patient services (via submission to the Clinical Audit Platform).

**Primary Care**

General practices will be notified directly of the collection periods and timeframes.

Future general practice data will be extracted via GPES on the following dates:

- November 2018  
  2018/19 collection (data from January to September 2018)
- February 2018  
  2018/19 collection (data from January to December 2018)
- May 2019  
  2018/19 collection (full audit year 2018/19 data)

**Secondary Care**

Secondary Care and Specialist services have access to a platform which enables continuous data collection throughout the audit year. Data submitters can add updated clinical information as and when an individual patient has a new observation (e.g. blood pressure check, HbA1c reading etc.), and there is also the option to complete a bulk upload of information at a suitable time (rather than waiting for a finite submission window). Data submitters will also be able to track their organisations progress throughout the year.

There is a final cut off date each year when the data will be extracted from all providers to build the reports from, but the providers will be able to continue to enter data at any time.

**What do I need to do for the next collection of the NDA?**

For General Practice, the collection will be facilitated via the General Practice Extraction Service (GPES). The NHS Digital NDA, Primary Care support, and GPES teams have worked together to define the specifications and timescales for the quarterly collections which will take place automatically according to the defined schedule. Details of the data items for collection along with guidance for practices is provided on the NDA website at https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/clinical-audits-and-registries/national-diabetes-audit
GP Practices will still be required to ‘opt in’ to participate in the audit. An invitation to participate will be sent out via CQRS. Upon logging into CQRS, the facility to accept the invite will be available. Data will then be taken automatically; the data will ultimately be stored within the NHS Digital secure folder.

Specialist diabetes out-patient services should work with their insulin pump clinics and either add clinical information as and when a patient has a new observation, or complete the Specialist Service template (in Microsoft Excel, available from the NDA website) for their hospital / trust, then use the ‘export to .csv’ function to create 5 .csv files. The resulting files can then be uploaded the Clinical Audit Platform (users will first need to register for this platform; guidance can be found on the NDA website).

Keep up to date with what’s happening in the NDA

You can register your details with the NDA team, please include the following: name, email address, job title, organisation, organisation code, clinical system (if applicable). Email this information to diabetes@nhs.net

Further Information

Who do I contact for further information about the audit?

You can contact Gary Jevon (audit manager) or Elizabeth Cannings (audit coordinator) by emailing diabetes@nhs.net or calling 0300 303 5678 please note that lines are open Monday to Friday, 9:00-17:00. For general enquiries please email enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk

We would like your feedback so that the resources we produce are useful to our users. Please let the team know if there is anything missing from these Frequently Asked Questions that would have helped you.