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CONFIDENTIALITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG) WITHIN
THE HEALTH RESEARCH AUTHORITY (HRA):
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Our privacy policy is
available online:
www.icnarc.org

Supported by
 Resuscitation
Council UK

 icnarc
intensive care
national audit &
research centre



Improving patient
outcomes following
cardiac arrest

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE FOR
THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE PATIENTS

Ensuring a high quality resuscitation service

If you or your loved one/family member suffer a cardiac arrest in hospital they should receive high quality resuscitation and post-resuscitation care. The government requires NHS hospitals to provide an effective resuscitation service. This hospital is regularly measured by two health charities working together, Resuscitation Council UK and ICNARC (Intensive Care National Audit & Research Centre).

Information about you/your loved one's cardiac arrests, responded to by the resuscitation team in this hospital, are collected by hospital staff. This is then sent to ICNARC who analyse the data and send the results back to the hospital. The hospital can use these results to improve the care they provide to their patients. This process is called an audit. This audit is called the National Cardiac Arrest Audit (NCAA).

Who collects this information?

A trained member of staff from this hospital collects the information (data) about each in-hospital cardiac arrest responded to by the resuscitation team. They then enter that data onto a secure website which can only be accessed using a username and password.

What information is collected?

- Patient details – NHS Number, date of birth, sex, ethnicity;
- Details of admission/visit to the hospital – date of admission, reason for being in the hospital (e.g. surgery, outpatient, visitor);
- Details of cardiac arrest – date and time, location of patient while having cardiac arrest, type of heart rhythm during cardiac arrest;
- Details of outcomes – reason why resuscitation stopped, whether patient survived cardiac arrest, where patient went following cardiac arrest, date of discharge

No names or addresses are collected

How is this information used?

The information (data) collected in each hospital is sent to ICNARC. ICNARC brings together and analyses data from hospitals across the UK. They then send out a confidential report to each hospital. This report shows how they compare with similar hospitals in the UK in terms of the care they provides and the results of this care. This helps ensure all hospitals consistently maintain the best possible patient outcomes. See www.icnarc.org for other ways in which ICNARC use information to improve patient care.

How secure is this information?

ICNARC has a very secure computer system and strict information security policies that are reviewed annually.

Does my information need to be included?

The national data opt-out is a service that allows patients to opt-out of their confidential patient information (data) being used in circumstances other than their direct care. To carry out the National Cardiac Arrest Audit, ICNARC have been given special permission so that the national data opt-out is not applied. This is because the absence of patient data can mean inaccurate reports, leading to delays in, or prevention of, units identifying areas of improvement.

If you don't want your data to be used, you do have the right to request that it isn't sent to ICNARC, irrespective of the national data opt-out exemption. You can do so by discussing this with a member of your healthcare team. This will not affect the care and treatment provided.

For information on how we use our data and how it is kept secure please visit our website: www.icnarc.org