



Royal College
of Physicians

National Audit of
Inpatient Falls (NAIF)

Have you had a fall and sustained an injury as an inpatient?

Information for patients



Commissioned by



HQIP

Healthcare Quality
Improvement Partnership

You have been given this leaflet because you have sustained a fall while in hospital, which has resulted in a fracture, spinal injury or head injury. This leaflet will tell you:

- > what the National Audit of Inpatient Falls (NAIF) is
- > what information we collect from you for the audit
- > how your information may be used
- > what to do if you don't want your information to be used.

What is the NAIF clinical audit?

NAIF collects information about patients aged 65 and over who have had a broken bone, spinal or head injury while in hospital. This information helps us understand what was done to try to prevent your fall, and how you were cared for straight afterwards. By looking at these details, we can learn how to make hospitals safer and improve care for patients in the future.

What information do we collect?

- > Personal (confidential) information that includes:
 - > NHS number (everyone in England and Wales has a unique number listed on their medical records)
 - > name
 - > date of birth
 - > postcode (to see which part of England or Wales you live in)
 - > sex
- > The type of broken bone / injury you had
- > Details about what was done to try to prevent your fall, what happened when you fell, and the care you received afterwards.

Once collected, this information will never be published in a way that can identify you.

How do we keep your information safe?

To protect your information, we follow strict policies and procedures that meet government and NHS requirements for confidentiality and security. Any organisation managing data for NAIF must comply with these standards.

Before sharing data, we always check that the receiving party has the necessary legal permissions and follow best practice in data protection and security.

Where does my confidential information go?

Trusts involved in this audit input patient and care details into an online system referred to as a 'web tool'. These data are kept in the tool during the duration of the audit and stored for another 5 years.

Crown Informatics, an organisation that has created the web tool, manages and holds the data. Their staff may access your information, such as NHS number, postcode and sex, for database administration purposes.

After trusts submit the data, Crown Informatics removes any identifying details before sending the information to the University of Bristol for analysis. The findings from this analysis are then given to the NAIF team to help produce reports. The NAIF team does not receive or see any individual patient information.

Crown Informatics will act as guardians for your data and will store your information securely. Periodically, Crown Informatics will also send your data to a number of organisations in England and Wales to link to other sources.

They send your NHS number, date of birth and postcode data to NHS Digital and DHCW (Data Health and Care Wales). NHS Digital has a record of all hospital admissions from the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) dataset in England.

The 'linked' data will then have the confidential information removed by NHS Digital and DHCW. The 'linked' data are then sent to the University of Bristol to be processed, analysed and aggregated. The results are then shared with the NAIF team to produce reports.

How will my information be used?

NAIF produces reports highlighting whether patient care in England and Wales follows national guidelines on fall prevention and management. The reports offer recommendations to improve care, helping older inpatients move around safely and supporting the management of inpatient falls.

All NAIF reports are publicly available on the audit/RCP website for you to review.

You can also view your trust's performance on key indicators related to fall prevention by clicking the dashboard tab at:
<https://fffap.org.uk/fffap/naifrep.nsf/>

Third party organisations may also request to use the data for research, audit and service evaluation purposes. The main use of the data will always be to improve care and services related to falls and fall prevention.

Why haven't I been asked for consent to use my information?

This audit has special legal permission to collect confidential information without patient consent. This is because the more patient information NAIF collects, the more likely its recommendations on inpatient fall prevention are to be accurate and helpful.

What to do if I don't want to be involved?

National clinical audit works best when it includes information about as many patients as possible. NAIF is therefore exempt from the National data opt-out (NDO). Patients who have chosen to opt out of having their data used for anything other than their care will be included in NAIF unless they specifically request not to be included.

Scotland and Wales do not operate a national opt-out programme, but patients are still able to object to being included in individual audits, such as this one, under GDPR.

If you do not want your information to be included, please contact the hospital where you had a fall, or contact the NAIF team at falls@rcp.ac.uk.

Note: choosing not to have your information collected by NAIF does not affect the care/treatment you receive in any way.

How do I make a complaint?

If you think information about you is being used in a way that you are not happy with, you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO):
www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint.

Who runs the National Audit of Inpatient Falls?

NAIF is commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) and is run by the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) as part of the Falls and Fragility Fracture Audit Programme (FFFAP).

If you have any questions, please ask the hospital staff who gave you this leaflet or contact the NAIF team via: falls@rcp.ac.uk or call 020 3075 1511.

Check out the NAIF resource for patients and carers.

[Falls prevention in hospital: a guide for patients, their families and carers](#)



falls@rcp.ac.uk
020 3075 1511

www.rcp.ac.uk/naif



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