

National Diabetes Foot Care Audit (NDFA)

● Why have you received this information leaflet?

Your foot care clinic is taking part in an important project to check that people with diabetes are being provided with good care. The NDFA project collects information about the care that people receive for their foot ulcers.

The information that is collected will help your clinic know if they need to improve their foot care service.

● Why do you need to know about this?

We would like to use information about the care that all patients receive from all foot care clinics in England and Wales, so that we get a full picture of diabetes foot care.

This will involve collecting some information about the care that you have received for your foot ulcer.

● What information about you is collected?

All people with diabetes should have their feet regularly checked at the GP practice or diabetes clinic. If problems occur, you may need to go to a specialist clinic and may even need to be admitted to hospital.

We would like to know what foot care is like across all these different services. That means we need to look at information about your care from all of the professionals you have seen.

When you attend the foot clinic, a member of staff will collect some data about your foot care. The data collected in clinic will be linked to other data collected about any hospital admissions you may have had. In order to link this information, your NHS number (everyone has a unique number which is used by the NHS) and date of birth will be provided to NHS Digital to allow us to look at the care you have received from all services – your GP, foot clinic and hospital.



For full details of what information is collected, please ask the person who gave you this leaflet or contact the NDFA project team.



● How is the information we collect about you used?

The information we collect about you is studied along with the information from all the other diabetes foot care services in England and Wales.

The data we collect from your foot care clinic will be sent to NHS Digital using a secure network. This information will include your NHS number and date of birth.

NHS Digital will use your NHS number and date of birth to link the information that is collected from your foot care clinic to other information recorded about your diabetes and held by NHS Digital.

This will include your HbA1c and blood pressure (from the National Diabetes Audit), any operations you had or other hospital admissions, which are included in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) database for England or Patient Episode Database for Wales (PEDW) and the National Vascular Register (NVR). In addition, NHS Digital will link your NHS number and date of birth to mortality data, which includes date of death. The mortality data is provided by NHS Digital on behalf of the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Once your information has been linked, your NHS number and date of birth will be removed, making the data **anonymous**.

The information that is collected by the NDFA project will be included in a report, which will be published on the NDFA project website.

Information that we publish, or share, will never identify a particular person. We may share the audit data for research purposes, but only if 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 foot care clinic must get special permission to be able to use your information for this project and they must agree to use the information properly. They will each be given their own password which will allow them to enter your information on a form on a very secure website. All data collected and used in the NDFA project will be securely destroyed after 5 years from the end of the project.

● Saying 'no thanks'

The legal basis for how we are able to collect your data has changed. As a result you will no longer be asked to sign a consent form.

However, if you do not want your information to be used, please inform your clinician. Previous records can also be removed, but if you have attended clinics at different locations you will either need to inform them separately or inform NHS Digital. This will not affect your care.



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FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like more information about the National Diabetes Footcare Audit (NDFA), please ask your foot care team. You can also:

Email: enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk

Telephone: 0300 303 5678

Website: [National Diabetes Foot Care Audit - NHS Digital](#)

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Leeds, West Yorkshire,
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