

<Recipient Name>[C1]  
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Dear Colleague,

**Subject: National Diabetes Audit (NDA) – GP practice data collection 2016 - 2017**

The National Diabetes Audit (NDA) team is writing to you to inform you of the forthcoming collection of the NDA.

**Why you should take part**

Participation in the NDA gives you the opportunity to plan diabetes care in response to local needs and to look at local performance in comparison with similar organisations. Participation allows you to:

- Assess how many patients are meeting the NICE clinical guideline standard for diabetes care.
- Assess how you are performing compared to other practices. Your data will be case mix adjusted for your patient population to take into account age, ethnicity and socioeconomic differences.
- Identify where resources need to be targeted, which will help to improve patient outcomes and ultimately result in cost savings.
- Identify and share best practice
- Empower people with diabetes by informing them about the care they receive

Report 1: Care Processes and Treatment Targets for 2015-16 was published on 31 January 2017. The report published GP practice level data and can be found here <http://digital.nhs.uk/pubs/ndauditcorerep1516>

**Dates for the 2016-17 NDA collection**

The next audit collection period for the NDA will be as follows:

**Table 1**

Audit Year	Data Collection Period
2016-2017 (1 January 2016 - 31 March 2017)	12 June 2017 – 21 July 2017

## Changes to the NDA

The legal basis for the NDA data collection is changing. Previously, the Secretary of State, on the recommendation of the Confidentiality Advisory Group has granted NHS Digital permission to collect data on behalf of HQIP under Regulation 5 of the Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002 (known as Section 251 support). However, this should only be used when a practicable alternative is not available.

From April 2017 NHS England will direct NHS Digital to collect the data for the NDA from health care providers in England. The new legal basis for data to be collected by the NDA (Direction under section 254 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012), will mean that GP practices and specialist services are required to supply the data for their practice or diabetes clinic. More about the changes to the NDA can be found in our fact sheet on the NDA website at <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/nda>

## Informing Patients – Fair Processing

The NDA has always collected patient identifiable data from health care providers since it began in 2004. You do not need to individually consent patients, however we do ask that you do your best to raise awareness of the NDA and that your practice is participating in the NDA – this is known as ‘fair processing’.

Some suggestions for making your patients aware are:

- Display posters about the NDA in waiting areas and relevant clinic areas. Two posters are enclosed with this letter; further posters are available on our webpage at <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/nda>
- If you have a practice website, include information about participation in the NDA on your webpage
- Make NDA patient information leaflets readily available - a leaflet informing patients about the NDA can be downloaded on our webpage at <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/nda>
- If you have a screen within your practice where PowerPoints can be displayed then display the NDA poster to inform patients. The PowerPoint copy of the NDA poster is available on our website at <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/nda>
- Try to make patients aware of NDA reports –patient friendly versions of the National Reports are available along with GP and specialist service level data, these can be found on Diabetes UK webpage at <https://www.diabetes.org.uk/Professionals/Resources/National-Diabetes-Audit/NDA-reports/>
- If a patient objects to the sharing of their data for the NDA, apply the specific read code to their patient record to record patient dissent from NDA participation. The read codes to apply are available on our NDA collection webpage at [http://content.digital.nhs.uk/nda\\_collection](http://content.digital.nhs.uk/nda_collection)

## What to do next

If you are not receiving emails directly from the NDA team at NHS Digital please email your details to [diabetes@nhs.net](mailto:diabetes@nhs.net). Please include practice name and code, your name, job role, email address, telephone number and clinical system.

To be able to submit data for the NDA you will need to have an account for the secure web portal Data Landing. You can also check who is registered for your practice to submit data. Guidance for how to check who is registered for your practice and how to register new people for Data Landing is available at [http://www.content.digital.nhs.uk/nda\\_collection](http://www.content.digital.nhs.uk/nda_collection).

If you are already registered for Data Landing then there is no action needed from you at this point apart from your fair processing activities (see above).

Please note if you are a TPP user you will not need a Data Landing account. TPP users need to follow the guidance for their clinical system which can be found on our NDA collection webpage at [http://content.digital.nhs.uk/nda\\_collection](http://content.digital.nhs.uk/nda_collection).

### **What to do during the collection period**

Once the collection period begins Data Landing will be open to submissions. Please download the guidance for your clinical system from [http://www.content.digital.nhs.uk/nda\\_collection](http://www.content.digital.nhs.uk/nda_collection) and follow the instructions within the guidance. Please note you will need to have submitted your practice data successfully by the close of the submission period to be included in the NDA.

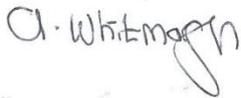
### **Useful information**

We have various resources available on the NDA webpage, <http://www.content.digital.nhs.uk/nda> and we now have a webpage dedicated to the NDA collection which will contain all guidance and information needed by practices and CCGs during the collection period. The new NDA collection webpage is [http://www.content.digital.nhs.uk/nda\\_collection](http://www.content.digital.nhs.uk/nda_collection)

### **If you have any questions**

If you have questions about any aspect of this letter or the NDA please do not hesitate to contact the audit team on 0300 303 5678 or email [diabetes@nhs.net](mailto:diabetes@nhs.net)

Yours faithfully,



Alyson Whitmarsh  
Clinical Audit and Registries Programme Manager  
The Health and Social Care Information Centre

## **Further Information**

### **Why is patient identifiable data required?**

The following identifiable data are collected by the audit: NHS number, postcode, gender, date of birth, GP practice code. These fields are used to link multiple records across the care pathway – for example, primary care data linked to specialist service data to rationalise duplicate records submitted from more than one service provider and create one comprehensive record per patient; linkage to Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data to understand complication rates; linkage to Office for National Statistics data for date and cause of death to determine mortality rates. Patient identifiable data are also used to validate the NHS number - the audit takes a minimum data possible approach to validate NHS numbers and no individual names are collected. Following linkage, the minimum amount of identifiable data is used in subsequent analysis, for example postcode is converted to Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) to calculate deprivation quintiles. GP practice codes are used to distinguish data submissions from individual practices and to group patient cohorts, for that practice, Clinical Commissioning Group or Local Health Board. The Audit queries uphold patient objections; therefore no data will be collected from patients that are identified as having 'opted out' by the GP system.

During the submission window data quality reports will be provided to Clinical Commissioning Groups and Clinical Networks so that they can review practice participation for their area and identify any errors in the data before the submission window closes.

### **Data security**

NHS Digital is registered under the Data Protection Act 1998 for the purposes of the Audit. All data processing is carried out on secure servers at NHS Digital.

NHS Digital works within the following legislation and standards:

- Caldicott principles
- The NHS Code of Practice
- The Data Protection Act 1998
- Freedom of Information Act 2001
- BS7799/ISO17799 Information Security Management
- NHS Information Governance Standards, and
- The Health and Social Care Act 2012.

### **What analysis is available?**

The audit year will be reported in national and local reports (Clinical Commissioning Group, Local Health Board, Trust/Hospital and General Practice). The report will be published late 2017/early 2018.

### **What information is available about the audit for people with diabetes?**

NHS Digital and Diabetes UK has produced information about the NDA that includes a patient information leaflet and a poster to display in your practice. Two copies of the poster are enclosed with this letter. You can download additional copies of the poster and the patient information leaflet here: <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/nda>

Diabetes UK also produces patient friendly versions of the NDA reports these can be found on the Diabetes UK website <https://www.diabetes.org.uk/Professionals/Resources/National-Diabetes-Audit/NDA-reports/>