

Epilepsy12 – Privacy Notice

What is Epilepsy12?

Epilepsy12 is an important national project which helps epilepsy services to measure and improve the quality of care for children and young people with epilepsies. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) are commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP), as part of their National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP). This means that we were chosen to run Epilepsy12 on behalf of NHS England and the Welsh government.

Why are hospitals and clinics taking part in Epilepsy12?

We want to get better at looking after children and young people who have epilepsy. Hospitals and clinics can help by collecting important information on the care that they provide to their patients. The RCPCH will look at this information and let teams know where they are doing well and what they need to get better at. The RCPCH will also tell hospitals and clinics how they are doing, compared with others who are taking part.

All hospitals and clinics in England and Wales that care for children and young people with epilepsy should take part in Epilepsy12.

What information does Epilepsy12 collect?

Epilepsy12 wants to find out how hospitals and clinics decide if a child has epilepsy and how they look after them if they do. For example, we collect information on the types of medicine that children with epilepsy receive, and the doctors and nurses that look after them. You can see a list of all the information that Epilepsy12 collects on our website:

www.rcpch.ac.uk/epilepsy12.

The **private information**, known as personal data, collected by Epilepsy12 includes patient's name, date of birth, gender, home postcode and something called their "NHS" number. NHS numbers help hospitals and clinics to identify patients. Your hospital or clinic already collects this information, so this isn't something new for Epilepsy12.

What happens to the private information?

Epilepsy services enter your information collected for Epilepsy12 onto a safe and secure website. This website can only be accessed by staff working in hospitals and clinics who have the right access permissions, or those working on the Epilepsy12 project at the RCPCH.

The RCPCH will not send your private information to anyone else unless they have permission to do so. If Epilepsy12 information is needed for other projects such as audit, service evaluation, research or other secondary uses, they will need permission from HQIP. For HQIP to approve this request, the project must show that they follow the strict data protection policies described in [HQIP's guidance to applicants](#), and must aim to improve care for children with epilepsy. Data will only ever be shared in a pseudonymised format, which is where information that could identify you is removed or replaced (unless the requesting institution has its own legal basis for holding patient identifiable data).

After patient identifiers have been removed from the data in this programme, data may be used for secondary research purposes. HQIP's Overarching Research Database Approval for the NCAPOP permits this re-use under S.251 of the NHS Act 2006 (*Reference 24/CAG/0108*). **For more information on data sharing for uses outside of the Epilepsy12 audit programme, please see the [NCAPOP privacy notice - HQIP](#).**

We follow the UK Data Protection laws when storing and using your private information to keep it secure. So, your personal data will not be shared with countries outside the UK or European Union.

The results of the Epilepsy12 audit are published in our annual reports and patient and parent guides, which are publicly available on our [website](#) and via <https://data.gov.uk/>. All data is reported at the level of individual NHS Trusts so that no information that could identify you will ever be published.

What if I don't want my information to be collected for Epilepsy12?

If you do not want your personal information to be collected for the Epilepsy12 audit, please let your paediatric epilepsy team know and they will remove you from the submission so that we don't receive the data. Alternatively, you can contact the Epilepsy12 team directly at epilepsy12@rcpch.ac.uk and we will ensure that your personal identifiers are removed from our database.

In England, the [National Data Opt-Out service](#) allows patients to opt out of their information being used for research or planning purposes. The National Opt-Out service does not remove your information from Epilepsy12.

In England, the [National Data Opt-Out \(NDO\) service](#) allows patients aged 13 or over (or those with parental responsibility for patients under 13) to opt out of their information being used for purposes beyond their direct care. The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, having considered the advice from the Health Research Authority Confidentiality Advisory Group, has decided that the NDO will not be applied to Epilepsy12.

This is because applying the NDO would introduce biases to the data and make it difficult to monitor care safety and quality and because of the importance of the data collection for improving patient care. Personal data collected by Epilepsy12 is not for research; it is processed to make sure epilepsy care is being provided safely and that health services meet national standards for care quality.

How long do you keep my personal information for?

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The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) is a registered charity in England and Wales (1057744) and in Scotland (SC03829)

The Epilepsy12 team at the RCPCH acts as the data processor on behalf of the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP), NHS England and Digital Health and Care Wales, who are the data controllers for Epilepsy12 data. The RCPCH will hold your information for as long as it is commissioned by HQIP to deliver the Epilepsy12 audit. All data will be deleted or transferred back to HQIP within two weeks of the end of our contract.

Why didn't anyone ask me if they could collect my personal information for Epilepsy12?

The legal reason is that it is in the public interest for the RCPCH Epilepsy12 project to use your personal data. Epilepsy12 has section 251 approval to collect patient identifiable data in England and Wales without explicit patient consent as it improves epilepsy care for children. Section 251 approval only applies to the processing of data for the purposes of the Epilepsy12 audit, and does not include use for other projects such as audit, service evaluation, research, or other secondary uses.

For more information on data sharing for uses outside of the Epilepsy12 audit, please see the [NCAPOP privacy notice](#). To find out more about section 251 approval, visit the [Health Research Authority website](#).

Epilepsy12 relies on the following for the processing of personal data; Schedule 1 (1)(3)DPA- underpinned by Health and Social Care Act 2012 Part 1 Section 2, the Secretary of State's [duty for improvement in the quality of services](#).

Processing is permitted under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on the following legal bases:

- **Article 6 (1) (e) processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller.**

This is justified through commissioning arrangements which link back to NHS England and the Welsh Government.

- **Article 9 (2) (i) processing is necessary for reasons of public interest in the area of public health, such as protecting against serious cross-border threats to health or ensuring high standards of quality and safety of health care and of medicinal products or medical devices, on the basis of Union or Member State law which provides for suitable and specific measures to safeguard the rights and freedoms of the data subject, in particular professional secrecy.**

This is justified as Epilepsy12 aims to drive improvements in the quality and safety of care and to improve outcomes for patients.

This means the audit does not need to ask permissions from everybody. However, we take your privacy seriously, so we offer you the option to opt out if you do not want to take part. The section below '**What rights do I have?**' explains how you can do this and more about your rights.

What rights do I have?

If you have any questions or would like to make any rights requests, please contact your unit directly. For the data we collect for Epilepsy12, you have the following rights:

- Right of access: The personal data we hold about you is provided by your unit. We can let you know which categories of data we collect, depending on the type of submission, but you will need to contact your unit directly for a copy of the information as they are data controllers of your patient record.
- Right to Erasure and Right to Object: The right of erasure does not apply to this audit because your data is being processed for the purposes of performing a task in the public interest, which in this case is for ensuring high standards of quality and safety health care. However, if you want to opt out of future audit rounds, please let your unit know and they will remove you from the submission so that we don't receive the data. Alternatively, you can contact the Epilepsy12

team directly at epilepsy12@rcpch.ac.uk, and we will ensure that your personal identifiers are removed from our database.

- Right to rectification of inaccurate data: Any requests to amend or update your personal data should be sent to your unit as data controller. If we receive any requests, we will forward these to the unit.
- Right to restriction: Any requests for restriction of processing should be sent to your Trust and they will inform us where applicable.

Who should I contact if I need more information?

If you would like more information about Epilepsy12, please contact epilepsy12@rcpch.ac.uk or call us on 020 7092 6168. You can also contact the College's data protection officer for queries about how the college process personal data: information.governance@rcpch.ac.uk. If you have any further questions or concerns about how your information is being shared for the purposes of the audit, please first contact your hospital team.

HQIP are the joint data controllers with NHS England and Digital Health and Care Wales for the England and Wales elements of the audit respectively. HQIP can also be contacted if you have any questions or concerns about how your information is being used for the audit: data.protection@hqip.org.uk.

You do also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Officer (ICO) at casework@ico.org.uk, if you have concerns about the way your/your child's personal data is being handled.

This privacy policy was last updated in February 2025.