

What is NOCA?

NOCA was established in 2012 to create sustainable clinical audit programmes at national level.

National clinical audit is an ongoing review of clinical practice measuring structures, processes and outcomes to make improvements. NOCA supports hospitals to learn from their audit cycles.

NOCA is funded by the Health Service Executive Quality Improvement Division and supported by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

How does NOCA keep information confidential?

It is our duty to safeguard audit information. We do this by making sure that:

- our staff know their responsibilities and are trained in handling information;
- we comply with all regulations relating to confidentiality and protection of data;
- all information is kept on secure computer systems.

Can I access my information at NOCA?

No, because we at NOCA do not have any personal information which may identify you.

Contact Details for Major Trauma Audit in your Hospital



NOCA National Office of
Clinical Audit



Major Trauma Audit

Patient Information

Your questions answered

You can contact the National Office
of Clinical Audit at:

2nd Floor, Ardilaun House, Block B,
111 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.
Telephone: 00 (353) 1 402 8577
Email: auditinfo@noca.ie
Website: www.noca.ie

What is a major trauma audit?

A major trauma audit gathers information about injuries people sustain in accidents and how these injuries are dealt with by hospitals and professional health care teams. The information gathered in the audit helps to improve the quality of services to the public.

A person can be injured in many different ways. For example, a person in a road traffic accident may sustain a head injury or their internal organs, like the kidneys or spleen, might be damaged. Another person may fall downstairs and suffer broken bones. These examples are very different and require different treatments by a range of health care specialists such as ambulance crews, doctors and nurses.

In a major trauma audit, we will review the quality of care received by patients who become injured and are admitted to our hospitals.

Is this audit carried out in all hospitals?

No. We only gather information for this audit from hospitals where people who sustain serious injuries are admitted. We collect and use similar information for adults and children. Ask a member of your health care team in your hospital for more information.

Who carries out the major trauma audit?

A member of staff in each hospital is trained to collect this information. They then enter all the relevant information into a secure web-based form on a computer.

What information is collected for the audit?

In this audit, we collect information on:

- the injuries sustained;
- how the patient gets to hospital;
- care in hospital including the emergency department, operations, x-rays, or the intensive care unit;
- where a patient goes when they leave the hospital.

We do not collect names and addresses.

How is the information used?

The information collected in each hospital is sent to an independent charitable organisation called the Trauma Audit and Research Network (also called TARN) in Manchester. TARN gathers and analyses data from hospitals in Ireland, the United Kingdom and some Scandinavian countries. When they have finished this analysis, they send out a confidential report to each hospital and to the National Office of Clinical Audit (also called NOCA).

The information collected for major trauma audit is used to monitor the care delivered in Irish hospitals. The findings are used to make improvements in the care provided to you and all health service users. All individual findings will be combined and published in an annual report. This will be available on the NOCA website. No individual will be identified in these reports.

Health care research can also improve care. In the future, NOCA may grant health care researchers access to your data. This will only happen when researchers submit a proposal to a research ethics committee for review. This ensures that health care research using information from this audit is of a high standard and may contribute to improved care for patients

Is my personal information used ?

No. Your personal information – that is information which could identify you, such as your name, address and date of birth – is not collected in this audit. This information remains in the hospital which you attended. This means that we use anonymous information from your records for this audit. When we use anonymous information for clinical audit or for research, it is not linked to you. Therefore, we will not contact you to use this information.