

National Confidential Enquiries



How we Protect and Use Patient Information

What we use information for

In our enquiries into healthcare services we use information about patients to help improve health services and to check that they are up to standard. Whenever we do this we make sure that we don't share any personal details that could be used to identify someone

This information helps us ...

- Improve the quality of patient care and treatment
- In the protection and monitoring of public health
- In the managing and planning of the health service
- For medical or health service research, audit and training.

Using information helps improve healthcare for all

The NHS carries out millions of treatments every year, many of which are highly complex and involve teams of healthcare professionals. The vast majority of patients are treated successfully, but occasionally things do go wrong – and it is important that we understand why this happens. The National Confidential Enquiries collect information on the care given to thousands of people each year, to identify common problems and to work with doctors and other healthcare professionals to correct them.

The Enquiries are independent non-profit organisations that exist only to improve patient care. They are commissioned by the NHS, but they also examine care in private hospitals.

Confidentiality

Everyone working for the NHS has a legal duty to keep information about you confidential. At all times great care is taken to ensure the high standards of confidentiality are maintained in respect of all information held about our patients. The information used is stored securely (whether it is on paper or in an electronic form). The information is used anonymously so that no one outside the Enquiry has access to the personal details contained.

Enquiry reports never include the names of any individual patients.



the **national confidential inquiry** into **suicide** and **homicide** by **people** with **mental illness**

Want more info?

You can obtain further information about the Confidential Enquiries by visiting the following websites:

- Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (CEMACH) – www.cemach.org.uk
- National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NCEPOD) – www.ncepod.org.uk
- National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by people with Mental Illness (NCISH) – www.national-confidential-inquiry.ac.uk