



The National Institute  
for Cardiovascular  
Outcomes Research

## National Data Opt Out

### **Important notice for hospitals submitting data directly by creating records using the NICOR web application (front end) and not uploading using a third party / local system.**

This note follows the recent letter outlining the implications for data submissions to NICOR from the National Data Opt-Out Policy, which comes into effect from the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Having reviewed the existing data flows, a large number of hospitals are submitting data by directly creating admission / procedure records using the NICOR web application (front end). To ensure your hospital is compliant with the Policy you will need to continue with your local opt-out searches (each patient NHS number must be checked) before a record is entered onto the NICOR web application (front end). For further information please contact your Information Governance (IG) team.

The Policy will clearly cause a problem if you use the NICOR database as part of your hospital's electronic record for these patients and therefore we are looking into ways in which you might be able to continue to send all your patients' data (including opt-outs) to us. We are developing a data sharing agreement (DSA) which we hope will enable this.

Once we have the necessary legal and information governance assurances, we will contact you when the DSA is ready. This will have to be signed by your hospital IG / management team and returned to us. *If the DSA is not in place by the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 then hospitals will need to come up with an interim solution and avoid entering data on opt-out patients into the NICOR front end.* At the time we will also explain if there will be any changes to how you currently submit your data via the NICOR front end. In the meantime, please email Sam McAlister ([sam.mcalister@nhs.net](mailto:sam.mcalister@nhs.net)) at NICOR to confirm if your hospital is currently using, or would like to use, the NICOR web application (front end) to enter your data. Please provide both your hospital's name and the name of the datasets for which you use this application.

Please note this does not apply to hospitals that collect data using third party / locally-developed database systems. These hospitals will need to undertake opt-out searches and avoid uploading such patients to NICOR.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Chal", with a horizontal line underneath.

**James Chal**  
NICOR Chief Operating Officer