

Report key messages

Project title: *National Audit of Cardiac Rhythm Management (NACRM)*

Report ref. and name: *National Audit of Cardiac Rhythm Management 2021 Summary Report (2019/20 data)*

Date of publication: *14th October 2021*

Key message 1:	Following a number of years of increased activity, overall levels for all CRM device and catheter ablation procedures have not changed significantly since 2016.
Key message 2:	The adoption of leadless pacemakers (Micra, Nanostim, WiSE) has not increased since 2017. 273 devices were implanted in 2019/20. There was a slight decline in the number of subcutaneous ICDs implanted. Pulmonary vein isolation by cryoballoon alone now accounts for 39% of cases, with 55% using 'point by point' RF ablation alone.
Key message 3:	The number of low volume pacemaker and complex device centres continues to fall slowly but remains high. The number of low volume ablation centres (excluding private and children's hospitals) is now very low.
Key message 4:	The proportion of cardiologists documented to achieve the quality standards for devices is falling, while that for complex ablations is rising.
Key message 5:	Compliance with NICE guidelines remains good for pacemakers and is now good for ICDs.
Key message 6:	Data submission in some ancillary fields is improving but remains inadequate.
Key message 7:	The UK has acceptably low re-intervention rates for devices and ablation, though a few outlying centres have significantly high rates.

100 word summary or abstract of the report:

This report focuses on cardiac implants between April 2019 and March 2020 and provides a record of CRM device and catheter ablation procedures collected from 175 implanting centres and 61 ablating centres.

The ability of this report to give an overall picture of CRM device and ablation activity has been impacted by the lack of data from Scotland, Northern Ireland and some private hospitals. Furthermore, data completeness has fallen slightly, possibly because of the impact of the COVID pandemic. Reported re-intervention rates are acceptably low, but it will require improvements in data completeness and several years' worth of data before definitive conclusions can be drawn.