National Clinical Audit of Psychosis – Early Intervention in Psychosis Pilot Audit 2023

Information sheet for people who use services

What does the audit do?

The National Clinical Audit of Psychosis (NCAP) collects and analyses data to see if people with psychosis are receiving care in line with national guidance. We look at care received by two groups of people with first episode psychosis: people being treated by Early Intervention in Psychosis (EIP) services and people being treated by Children and Young People's Mental Health (CYPMH) services. The audit is run by the Royal College of Psychiatrists and is advised by a service user and carer reference group.

What is happening in 2023?

The audit has been running since 2017 and this year it will continue to find out things like whether people received interventions such as CBTp (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Psychosis) or physical health screening. We can then measure how well services are doing at providing different aspects of treatment. The audit covers areas of EIP care important to people being treated and care providers.

We are making a change to how we collect data. Previously, services have had to fill in questionnaires about the care they had provided to some of the people they have treated over the last year (a sample). In 2023, we are trying out a new approach, in which data that services already send routinely to NHS Digital each month will be used for the audit. This will reduce the work for services taking part in the audit and leave them more time to care for people.

Why are we contacting you?

We would like to include information submitted by your NHS Trust to NHS Digital each month as part of routine monitoring, in the NCAP audit. You will not need to do anything – but we want to make you aware of how your data will be used in our audit.

Collecting identifiable data in the audit

We will be asking NHS Trusts involved in the pilot to provide some personal information – the NHS number, date of birth and postcode - for everyone that has been included in our sample (this is known as identifiable information). For every NHS Trust taking part, we will be asking for information on up to 150 service users.

We will not be collecting names or full addresses. We will ensure this information remains confidential and is kept securely. (There are more details on this below).

Why will personal information be obtained?

NHS Trusts submit data to NHS Digital each month on the care they provide to each service user. This includes information about the treatment provided to people with first episode psychosis. You can find out more about these data from [NHS Digital](#).

To use routine NHS Digital data for the audit, services first need to submit to NCAP a list of people with first episode psychosis who are eligible to take part in the audit (our potential sample), along with their NHS number, date of birth and postcode. NCAP will then randomly select a sample of case-notes to be included in the audit, and request information about service user care from NHS Digital. For NHS Digital to be able to do this, they need to be provided with identifiable information.

Have plans for collecting this information been approved?

Yes, we have been given special permission to collect identifiable data without asking each person for their consent. This is known as Section 251 approval and gives NHS Trusts the legal permission to provide this information.

To get Section 251 approval, we had to prove that we will look after and store these data carefully. We also had to show that using identifiable information is the only way to carry out this work. It needed to also help improve patient care. We can only collect identifiable data if we get this approval. You can find out more about Section 251 approval from the [NHS Health Research Authority](#).

We take our responsibility towards safeguarding and protecting patient data seriously. We will ensure identifiable data are kept confidential and secure.

What can I find out about my rights in relation to this audit?

You can find out more about how we look after data and your rights in our [privacy notice](#). This explains in more detail what data we hold, how we look after it and what we do with it.

When is the audit taking place?

Sampling for the audit will take place in June 2023. Data on how well teams in each NHS Trust taking part are doing will be made available via an online dashboard in July/August 2023.

Who will take part?

A small number of Early Intervention in Psychosis teams and Children and Young People's Mental Health services.

What happens if I don't want my information to be used?

If you don't want data on your care to be included in the audit, you can choose to opt-out. You will need to contact your NHS Trust (the organisation providing your mental healthcare) to do so, the deadline for which is 30th June 2023. Opting out of the audit will not affect the care you receive. You can find more information about how to opt-out via the poster on our [website](). If you would like to discuss any concerns about your information being used or would like any help in opting out, please speak to your care coordinator or The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) in your local Trust.

How will the audit be used?

The results from this audit will be used to shape how the 2024 audit is run involving all EIP teams and CYPMH services across the country. We are only involving a small number of teams in 2023.

The results will also help organisations involved in the pilot understand more about the care they are providing, how it compares to national standards and how they might work to improve it for people who will use the service in the future.

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

If you have any questions about the audit, please contact the [NCAP team]().