



Surgeon information regarding patient consent for inclusion in VGNW

Please use this as a guide to inform and consent patients eligible for inclusion in the Vascular Governance North West (VGNW) Audit Database.

Vascular surgical specialists throughout the North West are collecting information about patient care during major vascular procedures such as carotid endarterectomy and aortic aneurysm repair. The information includes personal details such as NHS number, name, date of birth and address as well as medical history, operative details, and follow-up data. This information is stored securely as required by the Data Protection Act 1998. We only share this information with the patient's care team or with NHS organizations that can tell us how the patient is in years to come. Best practice is to seek patient permission to hold this information.

Please explain to the patient that the purpose of collecting and holding this information is to allow us to provide reports to individual trusts regarding the volume, the risks, and the outcomes of these repairs. Also, please emphasize that only anonymous data sets are available for research purposes and that they cannot be identified in any way by the researchers.

If a patient consents to have their data included in the VGNW, please record this in the patient's hospital notes using the phrase 'This patient has consented to have their data included in the VGNW database'. Should a patient wish to have their data removed from the database, please contact Megan Jones, VGNW project coordinator, on 0161 291 5823. The surgical team will be responsible for relaying this request to the VGNW team. Patient data will be removed immediately upon receipt of this request.

VGNW recommends that patients are provided with an information sheet regarding the use of their data (appendix 1) and that this is supported with verbal explanations by a clinician with sufficient expertise.



Patient Information

This information sheet tells you why your local care team would like your permission to store data on your treatment and the outcomes of that treatment in the Vascular Governance North West (VGNW) Audit Database.

Vascular surgical specialists throughout the North West are collecting information about patient care during major vascular procedures such as carotid endarterectomy and aortic aneurysm repair. The information includes personal details such as NHS number, name, date of birth and address as well as medical history details, details about your operation, and follow-up data. This information is stored securely as required by the Data Protection Act 1998. We only share this information with your care team, the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) and other central UK NHS bodies to gather information about your health status.

The purpose of collecting and holding this information is to provide reports to hospitals and surgeons regarding the number of procedures they perform, the different patient characteristics that may increase the risk of a specific procedure, and the outcomes of these procedures. Also, this information can be combined with information from future hospital admissions to help surgeons decide on the best treatment strategy to minimize complications and maximize quality and length of life.

Anonymous data sets (with all your personal details removed) will be made available for research purposes. You could not be identified in these data sets. This research is vital to the future development of vascular surgery.

If you do not wish to have your data stored in VGNW or you would like it removed from the database at a later date, please inform your surgeon. They will be responsible for relaying this request to the VGNW team. Your data will be removed immediately upon receipt of this request.

Please contact Megan Jones, VGNW project coordinator, on 0161 291 5823 with any questions or if you would like further information.