

Your choices: consultant choice

Consultant treatment outcomes



NHS England is committed to making more information available about how services and professionals are performing. The aim is to drive up the quality of care and to help people choose the treatment that suits them best.

This initiative is a central part of NHS England's ambition to ensure every patient gets high quality care, and to build improved services for the future.

On this page you'll find links to information about individual consultants in a number of clinical areas. You can look at their results for a range of operations and treatments to help you make decisions about your care.

Prof Sir Bruce Keogh, National Medical Director of NHS England, said: "This is a major breakthrough in NHS transparency."

"We know from our experience with heart surgery that putting this information into the public domain can help drive up standards. That means more patients surviving operations and there is no greater prize than that."

The reporting of the data was led by Prof Ben Bridgewater from the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP). Prof Bridgewater is a practising heart surgeon who leads the successful cardiac consultant-level reporting which paved the way for this work.

Prof Bridgewater said: "Ultimately there is one patient and one responsible consultant. This means the public can now know about the care given by each doctor and be reassured an early warning system is in place to identify and deal with any problems. A number of extra new safety checks have been created as natural by-products of putting this work in train, and this will only improve as processes are refined. In terms of geographical coverage and specialties covered, this is truly groundbreaking."

The data show where the clinical outcomes for each consultant sit against the national average. Where results differ significantly from the national average, there may well be good reason, and you can discuss this with your GP and/or surgeon.

The information available for each type of treatment varies, but in all cases you can see how many times each consultant has performed a particular procedure.

You may wish to discuss the data with your GP before choosing where to be treated, or with your consultant before your operation. Find out more [about choosing a consultant](#).

Where can I find the data?

Data is initially being made available for the following clinical areas (specialties). Publication begins on Friday 28 June with most results due to be available by 5 July. Click on the links below to see the data:

- [Adult cardiac surgery](#) (heart surgery)
- [Vascular surgery](#) (surgery on veins and arteries)
- [Thyroid and endocrine surgery](#) (surgery on the endocrine glands)
- Bariatric surgery (surgery to treat obesity). To be published June 30 2013
- Interventional cardiology (heart disease treatments carried out via a thin tube placed in an artery). To be published July 1 2013
- Orthopaedic surgery (surgery for conditions affecting bones and muscles). To be published July 1 2013
- Urological surgery (surgery on the kidneys, bladder and urinary tract). To be published July 5 2013
- Colorectal surgery (surgery on the bowel). To be published in autumn 2013
- Upper gastrointestinal surgery (surgery on the stomach and intestine). To be published in autumn 2013
- Head and neck cancer surgery. To be published in autumn 2013

This initiative applies to England only, although some specialties have also chosen to publish data they hold for Scotland and Wales. The NHS plans to make much more information available in future.

Due to data protection legislation, consultants had to agree to have results from their operations published and around 98% have. Results that are not published are still analysed and acted upon as necessary by the NHS.

Consultants who have not agreed to have data published are listed on this website. [See a list of these consultants](#).

How can I use the data?

The information published so far includes how many times each participating consultant has performed certain procedures and what their mortality rate is for those procedures. You can see whether or not the data for each consultant is within or outside the expected range. Consultants who fall outside the expected

range are sometimes referred to as 'outliers'.

You can use this data to decide which consultant to choose for your care. However, there are some important issues to bear in mind when looking at the data. For instance, the vast majority of the data has been through a process known as 'risk adjustment'. This is a way of accounting for the different mix of patients operated on by a particular consultant's team. Using risk adjustment, outcomes are calculated as if all consultants operated on the 'average' patient. This means that consultants who take on particularly poorly, high-risk patients or carry out the most complicated procedures don't appear to have an unfairly high mortality rate.

However, not all the data can be 'averaged out' in this way. Specific reasons for this are outlined in the introductory text for each set of results. Where risk-adjusted data is not available, actual (also called 'crude') clinical outcomes are shown. If the data is not risk-adjusted, a consultant may have a higher mortality rate simply because he or she takes on more difficult cases.

If you have questions or concerns having viewed specific results, please discuss these with your GP or consultant.

[What will the NHS do where consultants have high mortality rates? show](#)

[Why is my consultant not listed? show](#)

[Why doesn't the data look the same for all of the specialties? show](#)

[When will data be available for other procedures and specialties? show](#)

[Where does the data come from? show](#)

Last reviewed: 28/06/2013

Next review due: 28/06/2015

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