



Improving the quality of healthcare

NCEPOD STATEMENT REGARDING THE NATIONAL DATA OPT-OUT IN ENGLAND

The National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NCEPOD) has been granted exemption from applying the National Data Opt-Out to the datasets it collects.

The [National Data Opt-Out](#) is a process in England that allows individuals to opt-out of their confidential patient information being used for purposes other than medical care.

Because of [reported variations in who is opting-out](#), it is possible that the datasets on which NCEPOD is basing its work are biased, which in turn could impact our study findings.

To ensure that NCEPOD recommendations are not affected by this variation we will no longer be excluding the data of individuals who have opted out via the NDOO.

We have been granted this exemption by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, on advice from the [Confidentiality Advisory Group \(CAG\)](#).

This exemption applies to data collected for the Medical and Surgical Clinical Outcome Review Programme and the Child Health Clinical Outcome Review Programme.

However, it is important to note that individuals still have the right to [contact NCEPOD and ask for their data to be removed and permanently erased](#), and NCEPOD will continue to provide the highest security to the data we hold with all patient identifiable data being destroyed at the end of each study.