

## Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP)

### Information sheet for patients being assessed at six month following stroke

#### Why are you collecting my information?

SSNAP is a national project by King's College London (KCL) and funded by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) on behalf of NHS England and the Welsh Government. It collects information on the care that you are given starting from the time you arrive in hospital until you have this follow up, around six months after your stroke. Collecting information about your health six months after your stroke is really important as it helps us to understand how well people recover from stroke.

For full details on what is collected, please ask the person who gave you this leaflet or contact the SSNAP team by:

- Email: [ssnap@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:ssnap@kcl.ac.uk)
- Phone: 0116 464 9901

#### What confidential (patient identifiable) information about me is collected?

Your name, date of birth, postcode and NHS number (everyone in the country has a unique number used by the NHS) is collected.

#### This is the first time I have heard about SSNAP. Why didn't the hospital staff who treated me ask for permission to use my information?

SSNAP has permission to collect confidential information without explicit consent up to six months after a patient has had a stroke. This permission is given by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on advice from the Confidential Advisory Group (CAG). This is called Section 251 support.

It is very difficult to ask all patients for their consent just after they have had a stroke. Some patients find it hard to communicate after they have had a stroke, some cannot speak, and some won't have relatives with them. It is also a very distressing time for patients and asking them about this project at this time would not be the most important priority. The SSNAP team consulted stroke survivors about this who said that they thought the positives (the potential to improve stroke services) outweighed the negatives.

All organisations that participate in SSNAP are encouraged to talk to patients about SSNAP where this is possible and are asked to display information about SSNAP on the ward.

#### Why are you asking for my consent now?

We are asking for your consent to use your confidential information now because we understand that many people wish to be informed about how their information is being used and for what purpose. It is very difficult to ask all patients for their consent just after they have had a stroke and providing information on SSNAP and asking for consent can be overwhelming. During the six month review patients are more likely to be able to review and understand this information, to inform their decision on consent.

## **How is my information collected and how is it handled?**

The hospitals and other organisations involved in your care collect your personal details and information on the care that they provided to you. This information is entered onto a secure website which can only be accessed by registered staff at relevant healthcare organisations. Staff must have a password and they must agree to Terms and Conditions that protect your information.

The SSNAP team at King's College London (KCL) then process the data entered to create reports which show how well each hospital or stroke team is performing. This analysis is anonymised.

The information is held on a website run by a company called Net Solving Ltd. Net Solving have put many measures in place to make sure your information is secure.

The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) is the organisation that funds SSNAP. They are called a data controller. HQIP are joint data controllers with NHS England for England data and Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW) for Wales data. This means that they can decide what the data collected is used for – in this case reporting on how good stroke care is across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

## **If my confidential information is anonymised why is it necessary to collect it?**

SSNAP needs to match information about stroke services and stroke care with other information:

- **Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) and Patient Episode Database for Wales (PEDW)**  
Everyone who goes to hospital receives a code based on the type of illness that they are treated for. By linking to HES and PEDW the SSNAP team can see that we are collecting information on nearly all stroke patients in the country. This is very important because we want to report results which are representative of the care that all patients receive in hospital.
- **Mortality data**  
NHS England supplies data on people who die and what caused their death in the Civil Registration – Deaths database. It is important for SSNAP to be able to know whether or not people died after having a stroke, because if we can show that patients are less likely to die or have another stroke when they get good care it will encourage organisations to improve stroke services. Linking with this data also helps to make sure that families of stroke patients who died don't get inappropriately contacted, for example, for a six month follow up assessment.

SSNAP gets HES and mortality data from NHS England and PEDW data from the DHCW and so needs to use your confidential information to share with NHS England and DHCW to match the data.

## **What if the information gets lost or stolen?**

The methods for keeping your information safe are very advanced. Your information is stored safely in a secure database in accordance with NHS recommendations and standards.

## **Does the National Data Opt-Out apply to SSNAP?**

The National Data Opt-Out does not apply to data entered onto SSNAP and if a patient has opted out via the National Data Opt-Out, their data will still be included.

## **What if I do not want my confidential information included in SSNAP?**

Patients can choose to opt-out of the audit locally, such that their personal identifiable information will not be stored or used for any purpose by the audit. Opting out from SSNAP will not affect the care a patient receives. For more information on how to opt-out from the audit or access the data collected about you, please contact your hospital directly or a member of the SSNAP team at:

- Email: [ssnap@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:ssnap@kcl.ac.uk)
- Phone: 0116 464 9901

You can also opt out of SSNAP at any point in the future. If you wish to do so, please contact your hospital directly or a member of the SSNAP team at:

- Email: [ssnap@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:ssnap@kcl.ac.uk)
- Phone: 0116 464 9901

## **Is my information used for any other purposes?**

Sometimes the SSNAP team receives requests from another organisation to use data already collected by SSNAP, for example from researchers who are interested in a particular aspect of stroke care. There is a very strict process which covers these types of requests, including that a panel of stroke doctors must agree that the proposal has research value and will help to further the understanding of stroke care. Most often this data does not include confidential patient information.

The National Data Opt-Out will be applied to any confidential patient information used for purposes outside the scope of the audit, this includes research. Information on how SSNAP data is used in research is available on the SSNAP website: [www.strokeaudit.org](http://www.strokeaudit.org).

## **Where can I find out more information about SSNAP?**

SSNAP produce a wide range of reports on stroke care and these reports are updated four times a year. We also have Easy Access Versions of our reports, which we designed with stroke survivors and stroke charities; you can access these by going to the SSNAP website: [www.strokeaudit.org](http://www.strokeaudit.org).

## **Contact the SSNAP team**

Email: [ssnap@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:ssnap@kcl.ac.uk)

Phone: 0116 464 9901

Website: [www.strokeaudit.org](http://www.strokeaudit.org)

## **Useful links for further information**

For further information on Section 251 support: <https://www.hra.nhs.uk/about-us/committees-and-services/confidentiality-advisory-group/confidential-patient-information-and-regulations/#section251>

For information on the National Data Opt-Out and how to make your choice: <https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/>

For information on how data is used in research: <https://www.strokeaudit.org/Patient-information/Research-using-SSNAP-data.aspx>

A full fair processing statement outlining the legal basis for processing your data is available at <https://www.strokeaudit.org/About/Our-governance/Legal.aspx>

## Consent form for participation in Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP)

Please Tick Box

1. I confirm that I have read and understood the SSNAP *patient information sheet* and have had the opportunity to ask questions.
  
2. I give my consent for my personal confidential data to be shared with NHS England and Digital Health and Care Wales, to link SSNAP data to:  
  - a) Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data or Patient Episode Database for Wales (PEDW) data
  - b) mortality data collected by NHS England (NHSE).

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Name of Participant

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Date

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Signature

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Name of Assessor

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Date

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Signature