

Consenting to be in the registry

Patients in Northern Ireland will be asked to fill in a consent form to join the registry. If you consent, NHS England can keep information about your surgery to support your care. You can choose to:

- share your information so it can be included in your ongoing direct care, used if there is a recall or safety concern about an implant and included in reports where you cannot be identified or
- not have your information included in the registry

Please be aware that if you do not consent for your information to be included in the registry, it may be harder to contact you if there is a product recall or safety concern about your implant.

What happens in the event of a product recall?

If there is a safety concern, the Business Service Organisation in Northern Ireland and their GP service will use secure NHS records to find your current address.

Where possible, your current address will be given to the hospital or clinic that carried out your surgery. They can then contact you and explain what needs to happen next.

If that hospital or clinic no longer exists, the Department of Health or its nominated Health and Social Care organisation may contact patients living in Northern Ireland. Patients living elsewhere in the UK will be contacted through the healthcare arrangements in their nation.

Useful links

If you have questions about the BCIR, please contact your hospital or clinic first. You can also:

- visit <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/clinical-audits-and-registries/breast-and-cosmetic-implant-registry>
- email england.contactus@nhs.net

The Breast and Cosmetic Implant Registry

Information for patients in Northern Ireland



**High quality care for all,
now and for future
generations**

What is the Breast and Cosmetic Implant Registry?

The Breast and Cosmetic Implant Registry, known as the BCIR, is a secure database that contains information about breast and cosmetic implants used in surgery. NHS England collects and holds this data for Northern Ireland under a request from the Department of Health, Northern Ireland.

The registry records which implant was used, where the operation took place, which clinical team carried out the surgery and any health questionnaires that patients choose to complete. It also records if an implant was removed, adjusted or replaced.

The Breast and Cosmetic Implant Registry helps keep patients safe. If there is a safety concern or product recall for an implant, the registry can help find and contact people who may be affected. It also helps the NHS look for patterns or problems linked to particular implants, procedures or services. The registry currently includes surgery carried out by NHS and private providers in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and may include Wales in future.

Who runs the registry?

NHS England manages the Breast and Cosmetic Implant Registry on behalf of the UK. Specialist organisations with expertise in breast, plastic and cosmetic surgery also provide clinical advice:

- British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (BAPRAS)
- British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons (BAAPS)
- Association of Breast Surgery (ABS)



What data is collected?

Your clinical team will send NHS England the information needed to link you to your operation and implant. This helps the NHS to contact you quickly if there is ever a safety concern. The data includes:

- your Health and Care number / local hospital number
- your family name
- your first name
- your current postcode
- your date of birth
- your surgeon
- details of your surgery and where it took place
- details of the implant used

You will be contacted before and after your surgery to answer questions about your health and wellbeing. These are called Patient Reported Outcome Measures. You can choose whether to answer them.

How is my data used?

NHS England publishes regular reports about implants, surgery and patient outcomes. These reports use grouped information only. This means they do not identify individual patients. Comparisons are made between organisations such as hospitals, NHS or privately funded care, and countries within and outside the UK.

NHS England may also share information with trusted organisations when this is needed to support your care, keep patients safe or meet legal requirements. Your information is never shared for marketing or commercial use.

How is my information kept safe?

Your information is kept securely. Only authorised staff and organisations with permission can use it. The NHS follows data protection law, NHS information governance rules and security standards to protect your information.

If you would like to know about what data is held about you in the registry, visit: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/privacy-notice/find-out-how-to-access-your-personal-information-or-make-a-request-in-relation-to-other-rights/>