NED National Endoscopy Database

Caldicott Guardian approval information page

Everything you need to know

What is Caldicott Guardian approval?

A Caldicott Guardian is a senior role in organisations that process health and social care data. They ensure that all eight Caldicott Principles are met when processing patient data. All NED data are patient non identifiable, but Caldicott Guardian approval is needed to allow export of data from the trust/organisation to the national database regardless of whether the data are patient identifiable or not.

How do I obtain approval?

The minimum local approval required is Caldicott Guardian approval. Further approval such as a data sharing agreement (DSA) may be required according to local arrangements. In some organisations, the following approvals have been required, and you should check with the appropriate departments if this is necessary in your organisation:

- Audit department approval
- IT department approval
- Change control approval

Please ensure that your Caldicott Guardian reads further information on the agreement and then completes our downloadable Caldicott Guardian approval form.

The completed form should then be sent to askjag@rcp.ac.uk

Why is it important?

Caldicott Guardian approval will allow NED to continue to:

- pool endoscopy data from individual units around the UK
- enable quality assurance and benchmarking of standards
- deliver feedback to individual endoscopists and units with regards to their performance
- enable performance to be audited against current BSG and JAG quality standards
- act as a database for service evaluation and research
- automatically provide data for some of the current JAG audits

NED aims to support and enable improved quality assurance in endoscopy to enhance JETS (JAG Endoscopy Training System), removing the need for double data-entry for trainees and to offer potential for research by providing a central store of key endoscopy data.

What data are collected by NED?

Minimum patient data are used; only age and sex are recorded, as these are clinically relevant data to enable quality assurance. Each procedure is given a unique identifier in the National Endoscopy Database that contains a string of information to allow the procedure to be identified in the local endoscopy database for data quality checking purposes and to facilitate further service evaluation. Individuals and units receive feedback on their performance data.

Patients will not be contacted or consented as data will not be made identifiable. Individual patient consent is not required. At the launch of NED in 2013 this position was clarified with the Confidentiality Advisory Group (CAG). In 2023, the UK Caldicott Guardians Council clarified that the data are not personal and not special category data, they are data collected in the healthcare space that are de-identified.

All participating endoscopists will be required to be registered on the JAG Endoscopy Training System (JETS). Endoscopists may 'opt out' from having their GMC or NMC number linked to their performance data, though they should be reassured that there will be clear restrictions on who can see their data. Endoscopists should be made aware of this option by the NED lead.

Access to the data by the NED office and clinical team and the database supplier/ administrators will be limited to individuals approved by the chair of the NED committee. This access will be for administrative purposes only.

Will my data be affected by the Caldicott Guardian approval?

There will be no disruption to the flow of data while Caldicott approval is being sought.

Can I request data from NED for research purposes?

Requests for external and research access to anonymised NED data will be overseen by JAG clinical leadership and the JAG programme manager (data and training).

If you require any support, or you would like a downloadable version of this letter, please contact askjag@rcp.ac.uk or submit a request.

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