

Please read this important information about NICOR reporting of data about your/your centre's CRM activity.

NICOR is about to analyse the data for CRM device procedures in the UK for 2016/7. Your data may be incorrect, so it is important that your centre validates it before publication.

We are taking the following steps to help assist you in this:

- 1) NICOR, BHRS and Arrhythmia Alliance will email asking you to confirm the correct details for your centre
- 2) New data protection rules mean that we cannot contact you in the future without your consent IT IS THEREFORE ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL THAT YOU GIVE US YOUR CONSENT TO THIS BEFORE THE END OF MAY.

Background: changes to the CRM audit at NICOR

Funding cuts and the retirement of David and Morag Cunningham followed by David's sad death less than a year later has meant delays in analysis and we will be much more dependent on your centres to validate data in the validation report.

What is a validation report?

The validation report is a "draft" of the final report that will be published for each centre. This year, it will have five sections

1. Data completeness.
 - Changes in the centre's overall procedure numbers compared to 2015/6.
 - Validation of system type ("maximum system capability") against generator implanted
 - Completeness (though not accuracy!) in a number of key fields.
2. Centre activity
 - A breakdown of the centre's total activity for the year.
3. Operator activity
 - The procedures undertaken by each doctor at the centre will be summarized. This will be derived solely from the GMC number.
4. Compliance with national guidance
 - Centre activity will be compared to BHRS standards for procedure numbers, and adherence to NICE guidance for pacing and ICD therapy.
5. 1 year reintervention rates.
 - For the first time, we will estimate the proportion of patients undergoing a reintervention within 12 months of a first implant.

The validation report will explain exactly how each of the figures therein have been calculated, so that you can understand (and reproduce) the process. We will attach a short document describing how the authorised person at your centre can login to NICOR (using Lotus notes or the web portal) to view and edit

What do I need to do?

- **If you are the person responsible for submitting your centre's data** to NICOR (audit lead/data manager/etc), please look out for the validation report around the end of April 2018.
- **If you are not the person responsible**, please urgently make sure that we have correct contact details for that individual (contact Sarah.Ajayi@bartshealth.nhs.uk or Shenaka.Singarayer@bartshealth.nhs.uk).
- Please note that the validation period will last just four weeks during May 2018. During that time you will have the opportunity to check and correct your submitted data. You will be asked to confirm online that you are satisfied that your data are correct or that they have been corrected.

What happens after the validation deadline?

After the deadline, it will not be possible to change your centre's contribution to the report.

However, NICOR is keen to keep the best possible record of historic procedures. Therefore if you become aware of missing/incorrect procedures, you can add/amend records. This will not be reflected in the annual report but will be available for subsequent analyses. This is obviously particularly important in our role of patient safety and long-term tracking of implanted devices – we have over a million records, and believe that >99.9% of device procedures in the UK are recorded.

What about the Electrophysiology/Ablation Audit?

As it was not funded, NICOR was unable to produce reports for 2014/15 and 2015/16. We are delighted to announce that there will be a report for 2016/7, giving details of centre and operator activity and some new quality improvement measures. We also hope to also provide summary statistics for the “missing” years. The validation process for ablations will follow that for CRM devices (probably by around two months), but we will publish the official reports at the same time.