**Introduction**

This leaflet provides information on the National Endoscopy Database.

An endoscopy is a procedure where the inside of your body is examined using an instrument called an endoscope. An endoscope is a long, thin, flexible tube that has a light source and camera at one end. Images of the inside of your body are relayed to a television screen.

Endoscopes can be inserted into the body through a natural opening, such as the mouth and down the throat, or through the bottom. An endoscope can also be inserted through a small cut (incision) made in the skin when keyhole surgery is being carried out.

An endoscopy can be used to investigate unusual symptoms and help perform certain types of surgery. An endoscope can also be used to remove a small sample of tissue for further analysis. This is known as a biopsy.

**What is the National Endoscopy Database?**

NED is a project to link up every endoscopy unit in the United Kingdom. This will allow important information about endoscopy to be analysed across all endoscopy services known to JAG (there are currently 485 services known to JAG which provide endoscopy). Already piloting in several hospitals, the National Endoscopy Database project aims to help improve the quality of endoscopy across the United Kingdom.

**What are the benefits?**

The NED project is already helping to improve endoscopy quality. It helps:

**You**  as it ensure patients have the best possible and safest experience when undergoing endoscopy

**Endoscopists** by feeding back data on their performance

**Hospitals** by enabling them to compare their endoscopy performance to agreed

national standards and to national averages

**Researchers** to continuously improve the patient’s experience of endoscopy

**What are the risks?**

There are no risks to you from NED. It will not affect your endoscopy in any way.

There is no significant risk of your personal data being lost or breached. The only information that is exchanged in respect of each patient is their age and gender.

**Will my personal details be shared?**

No. The only information that is shared is your age and sex - any details such as your address, contact details, or name will not be shared. This means the information that is sent to the National Endoscopy Database is non-patient identifiable.

The information that is gathered by NED includes things like:

* + Which procedure you have
  + Which sedative and how much you receive, if any.
  + How comfortable you were during the procedure
  + What findings were made

**Who will have access to the data?**

* There are strict rules in place to govern who can access the data. No one will be able to see your personal details through NED.
* Endoscopists and hospitals will only be able to access information that relates to how they perform endoscopy.
* If any health professional or researcher wants to access NED for research purposes, they will need to provide justification for the request to obtain permission and demonstrate that they have satisfactory data protection procedures in place.

**Can I refuse for my data to be included?**

Yes. But considering that all NED data is non-patient identifiable, we anticipate that such requests will be rare. However if a patient wishes, you can ask for your data not to be uploaded. You would need to speak to your hospital’s information governance team about this.

**Who can I contact for more information?**

Please speak to your endoscopist for more information or you can contact [askjag@rcplondon.ac.uk](mailto:askjag@rcplondon.ac.uk).