



THE TRAUMA AUDIT & RESEARCH NETWORK

NATIONAL OPT OUT POLICY

21st October 2021

SOP reference 6.6

What is the National Data Opt out?

The national opt-out policy was introduced on 25th May 2017 enabling patients to opt out from the use of their data for anything other than their individual care and treatment, for example research and planning. By **31st March 2022** all health and adult social care organisations within England are required to be compliant with the national data opt-out policy.

The national data opt-out relates to information about an individual's health and adult social care provided in England. It does not apply to information about an individual's health or care which is generated or processed outside of England including in home countries of the UK, which is Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the crown dependencies of the Isle of Man and Channel Islands.

Information on how to comply with the national opt out can be found on the NHS Digital website [here](#)

TARN also advise to speak to other Hospitals within the network to discuss how they are implementing the national data opt out.

Does the National Data opt out apply to TARN?

The Trauma Audit and Research Network (TARN) has Section 251 approval from CAG to allow TARN to collect data without patient consent. As TARN data is collected and held under section 251 approval the national data opt-out applies.

Please do not submit opt out patients to TARN.

If a patient objects to their data being used they should not be submitted to TARN and they should be made aware of their right to opt out. Any person registered on the Personal Demographic Services (PDS) and who consequently has an NHS number allocated to them is able to set a national data opt-out.

National Data opt out and case ascertainment?

The HES data we receive from NHS Digital excludes opt out patients, therefore there should be no impact on case ascertainment percentage. Previously NHS-D advised that opt out was only a very small amount of all cases nationally.

For more information and to view the latest opt out figures please visit: [\[MI\] National Data Opt-out, July 2021 - NHS Digital](#)

National Data opt out and BPT

Opt out patients should not be entered onto TARN therefore they will not appear in BPT reports. TARN suggests asking NHS England and your commissioners about these patients as TARN only collect the data and report, we do not decide about payments.

Patients who have opted out and then opt back in therefore 25 day deadline has been missed should also be discussed with your commissioners

National Data opt out and transfer patients

Please ensure to check the missing transfer list to check for missing transferred patients.

TARN have been made aware of two scenarios regarding missing transfers, please see below information on how to deal with missing transfer patients and the national opt out.

1. Transfer patients: Opt out when checked by Hospital A (not entered onto TARN at that point), but later opts back in and is entered by Hospital B.

- Patient will automatically appear on the TARN missing transfers list based on Hospital B's information.
- Hospital A can then enter data on TARN database, once status validated.
- If Hospital A is MTC and misses the 25 day BPT deadline, the MTC should discuss an exemption directly with commissioners. Note: Currently BPT block payment is in place.

2. Transfer patients: Not an opt out when checked by Hospital A (entered onto TARN at that point), but is an opt out when checked by Hospital B and is not entered onto TARN

- Patient will automatically appear on the TARN missing transfers list based on Hospital A's information.
- Onus on Hospital B to notify TARN, who will then:
 - Delete the submission from both the eDCR and the TARN server.
 - Notify TARN coordinators at both hospitals.
 - Patient will then disappear from missing transfer list and not be included in any analysis or reports.

Please send any queries or comments to support@tarn.ac.uk