

## National Audit of Breast Cancer in Older Patients (NABCOP) Patient information leaflet



### What is the National Audit of Breast Cancer in Older Patients?

The National Audit of Breast Cancer in Older Patients (NABCOP) started in April 2016 and is a clinical audit to assess the quality of care provided to women aged 70 years and older by NHS breast cancer services in England and Wales. It explores why older women with breast cancer appear to have worse outcomes than younger women and investigates apparent differences in the patterns of care delivered to older women. The Audit examines the care pathway from initial diagnosis to the end of primary treatment, and compares how patterns of breast cancer care observed for women aged 70 years and over with those among women diagnosed aged 50-69 years. (See [www.nabcop.org.uk](http://www.nabcop.org.uk) for more details).

### What is clinical audit?

Clinical audit is a method that health care professionals use to look at and improve patient care by comparing how patients are treated and the outcomes of care against set standards and guidelines.

In a clinical audit, information on the care received by patients is collected and analysed to see if individual clinicians and hospitals are following national clinical standards, such as those published by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). These audits usually also produce information for hospitals to compare their outcomes of care with other hospitals.

### Who is running NABCOP?

The national clinical audit is run by the Association of Breast Surgery (ABS) and the Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU) of The Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCS). We are funded by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) as part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme. Day to day running of NABCOP is managed by a project team at the CEU.

### Why is NABCOP looking at the care of older patients with breast cancer?

We want to support the improvement of hospital care for older patients with breast cancer. Studies have found differences in the care given to younger and older patients with breast cancer. NABCOP aims to find out what these differences are and to understand why these differences are happening.

We will share our findings with hospitals in England and Wales. In particular, we will tell hospitals about the areas of breast cancer care that they are doing well in and where they could improve. The results will also be available to the public and patients.

### Who takes part in NABCOP?

All NHS hospitals in England and Wales that offer breast cancer care will participate in NABCOP.

### Which patients will be included in NABCOP?

We will be looking at the care received by patients diagnosed with breast cancer from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 onwards, who receive care in NHS hospitals in England and Wales.

### What information is collected?

We will use information about patients that have already been collected by national organisations in England and Wales. These organisations include the National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service (NCRAS) and the Cancer Network Information System Cymru (CaNISC) in Wales, as well as NHS Digital. These organisations are allowed to collect data on patients diagnosed with cancer. To find out about information collected by cancer registration services, please visit the NCRAS website - <http://www.ncras.nhs.uk/leaflets>. For information about data collected by NHS Digital, please visit <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/patientconf>.

### Who will benefit from this audit?

The aim of the audit is to improve the care received by patients with breast cancer. We will do this by making recommendations to breast cancer services based on our findings. For example, NABCOP may make recommendations on:

- How women were diagnosed
- The type of surgery that older women have for breast cancer
- The use of radiotherapy after surgery
- The use of chemotherapy

We will make the results of the audit publicly available, including on our website – [www.nabcop.org.uk](http://www.nabcop.org.uk).

### How are patients involved in the NABCOP?

We will work closely with patient representatives on many aspects throughout the project, from deciding what information to collect to how the results are reported.

### How can I contact NABCOP?

You can email us at [nabcop@rcseng.ac.uk](mailto:nabcop@rcseng.ac.uk) or call us on 0207 869 6139.

Alternatively, you can write to us at:

National Audit of Breast Cancer in Older Patients

Clinical Effectiveness Unit

The Royal College of Surgeons of England

35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields

London WC2A 3PE

