Why your baby’s data are important

The clinical team looking after your baby record information from admission to the neonatal unit until discharge, and then at the age of two years. The information is an important part of your baby’s care.

- It is recorded electronically on a secure NHS system (called Badger.net)
- It is also released to the Neonatal Data Analysis Unit (NDAU) where it is stored in a confidential National Neonatal Research Database (NNRD) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the NHS Act 2006 and used to support a large number of outputs aimed at improving newborn care; some examples are shown below

An information sheet is available that explains how your baby’s data are used to improve care; please ask a member of staff if you have not received a copy. If you have any questions or do not want your baby’s information to be used in this way please tell a member of the neonatal unit staff. They will make sure your baby’s information is not sent to the Neonatal Data Analysis Unit and not included in the National Neonatal Research Database.

The flow of data from baby to reports

Baby Data → Local Neonatal Units → Badger.net → National Neonatal Research Database at the Neonatal Data Analysis Unit → Audits and evaluations → Research to improve care

The Neonatal Data Analysis Unit (NDAU) at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital campus of Imperial College London supports UK Neonatal Units, Networks and NHS Hospitals to improve the quality of care for babies by analysing information on babies admitted to all neonatal units in England, Scotland and Wales. www.imperial.ac.uk/ndau/

The National Neonatal Audit Programme is run by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. Data from the National Neonatal Research Database are used to measure the quality of care. This informs clinical teams and managers about how they compare with other hospitals and helps them improve the delivery of care and the outcomes for babies. www.rcpch.ac.uk/

Using your baby’s data to measure improvements in care

- Percentage of very preterm babies that have any information recorded on their health and development at the age of two years
- Percentage of babies receiving any of their own mother’s milk at discharge
- Percentage of admissions to neonatal units where there is a first consultation within 24 hours by a senior member of the neonatal team with the baby’s parents or carers

We would love to know your views about using data to improve care; please send any feedback to us at ndau@imperial.ac.uk