

20th July 2020

Dear SSNAP user,

Restarting 'Proper SSNAP' from 15th August 2020

Over the last few months we have all been involved with the major NHS effort to deal with the coronavirus pandemic in the UK, and although we have passed the initial peak we are well aware of the threat of resurgence of the virus and we approach the coming winter with apprehension. Can I add my own voice to the many that have thanked you and all your NHS and social care colleagues in rising to the major challenge of the pandemic, and particularly for all the work you have done to ensure that the quality of care for people with stroke has remained high at a time of unprecedented pressure on hospital and community services.

As the peak of the pandemic approached the NHS announced, via our commissioners HQIP (the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership), the suspension of all national registries and audits so that efforts could be focussed on the crisis at hand. Subsequently, and in common with many other activities that are 'restarting', NHS England has given direction to HQIP and to audit/registry providers to plan for a restart of routine data collection. With that in mind, we propose to restart **'proper SSNAP'** (data collection on our standard webtool) for all patients admitted to hospitals in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from midnight on Saturday 15th August 2020.

I want to thank all those sites that have made their best efforts to continue to upload data on all patients throughout the pandemic. Until 15th August both our emergency COVID-19 dataset and the full SSNAP dataset will remain available for the entry of new records, but the COVID-19 dataset will be closed to new admissions from the restart date. From the 15th August restart date, it will only be possible to upload new cases into the 'full' SSNAP dataset (www.strokeaudit.org), to which two new questions about a patient's COVID-19 status have been added to Section 9. That date will also be the start date for the reintroduction of feedback to sites regarding case ascertainment compared to historical HES data, and data quality and compliance.

We hope that you will welcome this further sign of the NHS returning to the 'new normal', and that you will have enough time to recover redeployed staff or make whatever other preparations are required to hit the ground running with complete case ascertainment for the full SSNAP dataset from 15th August.

All of us in the SSNAP team are excited by the prospect of a return to full participation of all patients from all sites. It will once again enable us to provide the comprehensive and detailed information on process and outcomes to support local, regional and national quality improvement that makes our National Stroke Audit the envy of other specialties. This is also my opportunity to pay tribute to Professor Tony Rudd for stepping into the breach and steering SSNAP safely through the choppy waters of the last few months – probably the most tangible example of a recently-retired physician rejoining the workforce to help the NHS deal with the pandemic. If you have any queries regarding the restart, then please contact the helpdesk at ssnap@kcl.ac.uk, and for all the latest information visit the SSNAP website www.strokeaudit.org and follow us on Twitter [@SSNAPaudit](https://twitter.com/SSNAPaudit).

The next few years are important ones for stroke, and the National Stroke Audit SSNAP will continue to play a central role in supporting you and the stroke community with improving the care and treatment of

people with stroke. The next year promises to be a busy one, with an expanded dataset to meet the needs of the NHSE Long Term Plan including support to the developing Integrated Stroke Delivery Networks (ISDNs) in England, and further rounds of both the Acute and the Post-acute/Rehabilitation Organisational Audits scheduled for 2021. All of us in the SSNAP Team at King's look forward to continuing to work with you and the UK stroke community in the vital work of quality improvement for people with stroke.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely,



Professor Martin James, Clinical Director, Stroke Programme, King's College London
Consultant Stroke Physician, Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital

National data-opt out (England only)

Important notice for healthcare providers in England

- From 1 October 2020 all healthcare providers in England must comply with the National Data Opt Out (please note the change from previously communicated 1 April 2020)
- Patient data entered into SSNAP is subject to the Opt Out
- Each patient's NHS numbers MUST be screened against the national opt out list at NHS Digital prior to ANY of their data being entered onto the SSNAP webtool
- Please check with your Trust's Information Governance team for local arrangements by which the screen should take place

Guidance on the policy and how to comply with the policy is available

here: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-data-opt-out> If you have any questions please refer to the link and let us know if there are any specific questions regarding SSNAP.