

Data Collection for the Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Programme

Data collection

In line with best practice nationally and internationally data is collected at national level on each person attending the service. Patient identifiers, like name and address, are not recorded. This data is used to help improve the quality of the services provided, facilitate audit and help guide the development of future services. For further information please see the HSE website (Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services).

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/specialist-perinatal-mental-health/>

What is it for?

In modern healthcare services the collection of patient data is very important in helping to provide safe and effective services, facilitating improvements in patient care and guiding future service development. The HSE National Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Clinical Programme in partnership with the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC) has developed a data collection system based on a secured online data collection platform, to support collection of patient data. NPEC and the maternity hospitals (HSE and Voluntary Hospitals) are both data processors and controllers under this initiative.

Is the data safe?

When collecting this data a unique code is developed for each patient so that patient identifiers are not recorded. It is not possible to link this code back to patient identifiers (for example name and address) outside the mental health care site where the woman's identifiers are routinely stored.

All information recorded about your care is stored securely and is processed in compliance with EU and Irish data protection regulations. The recorded data is only accessible by designated NPEC staff, mental health care professionals working in the Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services and the Perinatal Mental Health Midwives.

Patient data collected includes reason for referral, sociodemographic details including age and ethnicity, stage of maternity, referrer details, previous and current history of mental health problems including information about thoughts of or previous history of self-harm, details of the care plan and date of discharge from service where relevant.

There are very strict regulations relating to the handling of data you provide to us and all staff providing mental health care to women attending the maternity services are legally required under EU and Irish Data Protection legislation to ensure the security and confidentiality of all personal data they collect on behalf of service users. In addition, our staff are trained in best practice information governance and complete mandatory data protection and information security training.

This data is being collected to help evaluate and improve service delivery.

How can I learn more?

If you have any queries about the collection of your data please do not hesitate to discuss with the healthcare professional providing care to you and/or you can submit a request via <https://www.hse.ie/eng/gdpr/data-requests/> Further information on GDPR is available on <https://www.hse.ie/eng/gdpr/>