



UK Health  
Security  
Agency

# Patient notification identifying sepsis cases: a validation study

UK Health Security Agency is working with the NHS to improve identification of sepsis in England. This study will help identify how many adults get sepsis in England and who is most affected.

UKHSA will use computer models to predict if someone had sepsis. We will select 4,000 patients at random using NHS hospital episode statistics (HES) data (containing summary admissions data for healthcare analysis, find out more <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/hospital-episode-statistics>) from April 2023 to March 2025 in participating NHS Trusts.

UKHSA will securely send identifiers (NHS numbers, date of birth, hospital number and sex) of these patients along with a study-specific patient ID to NHS doctors at this NHS Trust. The doctors will use the identifiers to check these patients' medical records to confirm if the person did or did not have sepsis. The patient ID and confirmation of sepsis (or not) will be returned to UKHSA to develop the computer models. UKHSA will not see patient records.

The models work well if the predictions match the real results most of the time. If they do, we can use them to find out how many people in England get sepsis and who is most affected.

This study will not affect your care, but its results may help patient care and management in the future.

To learn more about the study <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/identifying-sepsis-cases-in-administrative-data-a-validation-study>



Scan the QR code or request it from the study team:  
[sepsis@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:sepsis@ukhsa.gov.uk)  
+44 20 8327 6214

## Opt-out

If you don't want to be part of this research, contact the study team on +44 20 8327 6214 or fill in this form <https://submit.forms.service.gov.uk/form/264030/patient-opt-out-identifying-sepsis-cases-a-validation-study>. We will ask for your NHS number and date of birth when you contact us so we can remove you from the data (UKHSA won't have access to your name). Your details need to be kept until identifiers, like NHS number, will be replaced by a unique ID made specially for this research, at this point the data supplied will be destroyed. National Data Opt-Out already applied.

This study has received section 251 approval from the Health Research Authority Confidentiality Advisory Group (ref 25/CAG/0166) to use in-patient notes at:

.....  
to create a reference dataset for validation purposes.

UKHSA privacy notice  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukhsa-privacy-notice/ukhsa-privacy-notice>

