



March 2016

Dear Colleagues

Over the last 10 years Urologists in the UK have been submitting their data voluntarily to BAUS databases. Until 2012 on average 20 - 30% of cases were submitted to the respective audits.

In 2012, Prof Sir Bruce Keogh, Medical Director of NHS England, mandated that surgeons in 10 surgical specialties in England should submit their data to the relevant national databases and as a result data accrual has risen to 70% and more recently to 90% in England. BAUS has now collected world-leading data on 6 national audits and their results have been published in high impact publications and presented at international meetings on 25 occasions.

Unfortunately, Scotland is falling behind. Recruitment to these audits in Scotland remains well below 30%.

Given that audit participation is already a GMC requirement - and an obligation for annual appraisal and revalidation, Dr Catherine Calderwood, Chief Medical Officer for Scotland is therefore requiring the collection of data to the 6 national urological databases¹ for all urological surgeons practicing in Scotland. Surgeons should input their data personally. It should be looked upon as an extension of the 'Op note', an important part of the operation. We encourage you to engage immediately in this process.

We strongly believe that your participation is in the best interests of our patients. It will help drive improvement in outcomes and raise clinical standards.

A similar letter is being sent to your local medical directors and chief executives to alert them to this national obligation and to ask them to support you in this endeavor.

We finish with 2 or 3 examples of the benefits that Scottish Urologists have already accrued from data collection.

"Contributing to the BAUS national audits is very straightforward and has provided me with valuable information about my practice compared to my peers." Alan McNeill (radical prostatectomy audit)

"I believe the ability to easily benchmark yourself against your peers drives better patient care. Contributing to the database has provided me with research

opportunities and facilitated my annual appraisal with excellent individualized reports.” Gren Oades (nephrectomy audit)

“As a non gifted computer user I have found the data base for percutaneous stone surgery user friendly and incorporate this in my annual appraisal. Collection of outcomes for non-cancer operations within the current BAUS data sets has parity with cancer surgery and enables most urological surgeons to contribute.” Bob Meddings [PCNL audit]

Yours faithfully



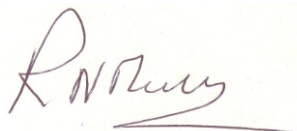
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Chief Medical Officer, Scotland



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Alan McNeill
Chair BAUS Section of Oncology



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President Scottish Urological Society

¹ Nephrectomy, radical prostatectomy, cystectomy, stress incontinence surgery, percutaneous renal stone surgery and urethroplasty.