

# UK National Flap Registry (UKNFR)



**BAPRAS**  
British Association of Plastic  
Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons



**BAOMS**  
British Association of Oral  
and Maxillofacial Surgeons

**ABS**  
ASSOCIATION OF  
BREAST SURGERY

**BSSH**  
*The British Society for Surgery of the Hand*

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## The UK National Flap Registry aims to collect information on the results of surgery for every UK flap patient.

In flap reconstruction surgery some of your own tissue (called the flap) is moved from one part of the body to another. This is the treatment that your surgeon has discussed with you. Most flap reconstructions are successful, but often there are other surgical options. We need evidence from patients to show which treatment works best for them. The goal of the UK National Flap Registry (UKNFR) is to collect this evidence by bringing together details of the patient, their surgery, and aspects of their care. This is an example of clinical audit, a process by which the surgical team reviews treatments and outcomes with the aim of finding ways to improve care.

To do this the UKNFR has to be able to contact patients and collect information about their opinions on the results of the treatment they have had. As someone who has been given the option of flap surgery we would like you to help us to better understand which treatments work best in individual cases.

### How is this done?

Clinical audit is a way for clinicians to look at how they care for patients. Audits look at what doctors should be doing, record how they are doing it, and ask how treatment can be improved. The information is strongest if a large numbers of patients can be followed up after treatment.

The first step in this process requires every UK surgeon to accurately record details of the treatment of all their patients who have had flap operations for different conditions including cancer, injuries and infection. Next, this data is transferred to the UKNFR, which acts like a library storing the patient information in a secure manner. Finally, when surgeons want to study the effects of different treatments they get permission from authorities to contact UKNFR patients and ask them questions about the process and results of their care.

### Who is responsible for the Registry?

The UK National Flap Registry is the result of co-operation between groups of British specialist surgeons, helping the UK lead the world in finding answers to which treatments work best for flap reconstructions in the body. The British Association of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (BAPRAS), who are funding and running UKNFR, are working with the British Association of Head and Neck Oncologists (BAHNO), the British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (BAOMS), and the Association of Breast Surgery (ABS) and the British Society of Surgery of the Hand (BSSH).

### Your agreement to record your data

Your surgeon and the UKNFR have been given permission by the Health Research Authority and the Secretary of State for your name, NHS number, date of birth, and medical treatment information to be securely recorded. If you do not wish to participate in UKNFR, please inform your surgeon. Whether you choose to be part of the Registry or not, your treatment and your relationship with your surgeon will not be affected in any way.

### Patient confidentiality will be maintained

Before any research is carried out using your data all your personal information will be made **anonymous** or **coded** so that researchers cannot identify you. Research publications will **NOT** contain any patient's personal information. All staff undertaking data collection will abide by the Data Protection Act 1998.

Patient data will never be given or sold to any other person or organisation. All records of your personal identifiable information, including your name, will be removed when these are no longer required, usually after a period of 3-5 years or in the event of death.

### If you do not wish to participate or wish to opt out from the UK National Flap Registry

If you do not wish your personal and identifiable data to be entered on the database, please inform your surgeon. Your decision will be respected, and your choice will be recorded in the front of your medical notes. If you have changed your mind and wish to have your details removed from the registry, please contact either by email: [UKNFR@bapras.org.uk](mailto:UKNFR@bapras.org.uk), or phone: [0207 8315161](tel:02078315161) or in writing to:

UK National Flap Registry, at BAPRAS, Royal College of Surgeons of England, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE

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**If you have a concern about any aspect of UKNFR, you should ask to speak to your surgeon or the audit staff who will do their best to answer your questions. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally or wish to see a copy of your information that is held on UKNFR, please contact BAPRAS by phone 0207 8315161 or email: [UKNFR@bapras.org.uk](mailto:UKNFR@bapras.org.uk)**

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