

Professor Stephen H Powis
NHS England Medical Director
Skipton House
London
SE1 6LH

5 December 2018

Dear Professor Powis,

Publication of the National Audit of Breast Cancer in Older Patients

We note a report in the Health Service Journal (HSJ) in early November 2018 highlighting concerns over a change of policy by NHS England relating to the process and timings of the publication of national audits. The HSJ also noted concerns from clinicians working for several national audits about the impact the new rules would have.

We are also aware that NHS England told the HSJ that the changes to the process were to deliver accurate, timely and well-written reports.

One of our patient members is on the Clinical Steering Group and Project Board for the National Audit of Breast Cancer in Older Patients (NABCOP), which is commissioned by NHS England. We understand from our member that the annual report for NABCOP is at risk of not being approved by NHS England in time for dissemination of findings at the annual conference of the Association of Breast Surgeons (ABS) on 15 May. You will be aware that this is the most impactful clinical audience for this data.

Whilst we fully accept the need for accurate reports, we would like you to note that as a patient movement concerned with uses of data to improve care, experience and outcomes, we would strongly support the timely publication of the NABCOP report in advance of the highly influential ABS conference, so that the report contents can be brought quickly to an extremely important and relevant clinical audience.

The use of NHS data is often portrayed in the media in a negative light, so it is important to patients that publications such as this, into which patients have given their own time and views, is expedited. A delay, administrative or otherwise, would not be in the interest of patients, nor would be their expectation.

Could you please give us some assurance that the publication of the report will be prioritised?

We hope you will address this issue quickly and positively.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Carrigan
Expert Data Adviser

Alison Stone
Coordinator

On behalf of the use MY data Advisory Group

cc: use MY data Advisory Group members
Kieran Horgan, Chair, NABCOP Project Board
Steve Brine MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care
Nic Dakin MP, Chair, All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer
Delyth Morgan, CEO, Breast Cancer Now