

Regarding NCD Database Project Linked to Japan's board certification system in surgery/physicians

Our healthcare system is facing challenges such as uneven distribution of board-certified surgeons/physicians and declining hospital care. Many groups are working on solutions, but without knowing where and what kind of care is provided, we cannot design a system that delivers the best medical care for patients. To address this, many clinical societies have joined forces to establish the "National Clinical Database" (NCD) in 2010. This initiative aims to understand the current state of healthcare in our country by comprehensively registering various types of care, including surgical and interventional procedures. Through this initiative, we can not only assess and plan for the proper placement of specialist surgeons and physicians to provide optimal medical care to patients, but also bolster the efforts of each facility in delivering the best possible medical care.

We want to keep you informed of our ongoing work to improve the state of healthcare in our country. We greatly appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this initiative.

Representative Director, National Clinical Database (General Incorporated Association)

Norihiko Ikeda

1. Your participation in this project

Whether to participate in this project or not will be left to the discretion of each patient. If you do not desire to participate, you may refuse registration of your data. Refusal for data registration will not place you at any disadvantage when receiving routine clinical care or the like.

2. Objectives of data registration

In providing better healthcare for patients, it is important to research and understand the current state of medical care. The NCD will continue discussions and efforts towards improving the quality of medical care on the basis of systematically registered information. The characteristics and open issues at individual institutions affiliated to the NCD will be assessed in comparison to the nationwide standard data in Japan, to begin their own efforts towards improvement. According to many past examples in Japan and overseas, support for such efforts at the initiative of clinical sectors have yielded remarkable achievements in terms of improvement of the quality of clinical care. In addition, at the initiative of each field (professional societies and so on), the collected data will be utilized for facilitating research towards improvement in the quality of medical care.

3. Details of the information registered

The information that will be registered includes the diagnoses triggering tests and treatments during routine clinical practice, the various types of treatment provided (e.g., surgery) and their methods, the short- and long-term outcomes, information on billing under the national health insurance scheme, etc. Even though with such information alone, it is not possible to identify individual patients easily, this does constitute critical information related to individual patients and will therefore be managed strictly. Handling and safety management of information will comply with the relevant statutes and rules (e.g.: Act on the Protection of Personal Information, Ethical Guidelines for Medical and Biological Research Involving Human Subjects, Guidance for Appropriate Handling of Personal Information by Medical and Care-Related Business Operators, Guidelines for Safety Management of Medical Information Systems). The NCD has also been implementing robust information management as a privacy mark-granted business operator. If you desire to obtain or correct information about your own registered data, please contact the medical department that you visited.

4. Ways of utilization of the registered information

The information registered will be provided as feedback to the institutions affiliated to the NCD and to each clinical field so that it may be utilized for improving the outcome of treatment at individual institutions and for facilitating better health of the population. In addition, it will also be utilized for academic research aimed at improving the quality of medical care at the initiative of each clinical field. The information utilized for such activities assumes only the form of processed and analyzed statistical information. Thus, the NCD will never make public the data in forms that would allow identification of individual patients. For appropriate evaluation of the treatment outcomes, research may be conducted by uniting the case data derived from multiple departments and/or institutions. Before the registered information is made public for such purposes, sufficient arguments will be made at the relevant committees within the NCD and individual clinical fields, and only the information approved will be made public.

If case of any questions, please contact the department that you visited or the NCD Secretariat.