



Information for consumers

What is the BreastSurgANZ Quality Audit?

By participating in the audit, your surgeon is demonstrating a commitment to improving the quality of care for patients with breast cancer.

The audit is a review of breast cancer surgery, designed to ensure that breast surgeons who are committed to improving care can get the information they need to achieve the highest standards of patient care.

The audit collects information from surgeons in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand about the treatment of breast cancer patients. This allows surgeons to assess their practice and compare it with their peers and industry standards.

The information you give also helps to:

- compile Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand statistics about treating breast cancer
- create a practice profile for your surgeon with details of their patients
- continuously upgrade care for breast cancer patients.

Who conducts it?

The audit is directed and funded by the Breast Surgeons of Australia and New Zealand (BreastSurgANZ), a specialty society for surgeons treating breast cancer. Further information about BreastSurgANZ is available at <http://www.breastsurganz.org>.

The audit is managed for BreastSurgANZ by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, a non-profit organisation training surgeons and maintaining surgical standards in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

How does it work?

Unless you choose not to participate, your surgeon will enter medical information about your breast cancer diagnosis and treatment into the BreastSurgANZ Quality Audit database. Your surgeon will include some potentially identifying information: your date of birth, the first three letters of your surname and postcode. Information supplied to the audit is stored in a secure database and encrypted to ensure patient privacy.

The audit has been declared under legislation that means data cannot be disclosed except for information which does not identify a person or persons.

Further information about your health status may be sought from other national databases. If the audit attempts to gain data in this way, we will provide the other database managers with the minimum identifying information necessary to ensure matching of records. Any data gained will be securely stored.

It is up to you to decide whether you would like to give your medical information to the BreastSurgANZ Quality Audit. Your surgeon will submit your information unless you inform them that you do not wish to take part. If you would prefer not to participate, it is important that you tell your surgeon or contact audit staff directly.

More information

More information, including easy-to-read summaries of breast cancer research, is available from www.surgeons.org/bqa.

The BreastSurgANZ Quality Audit is endorsed by the following cancer organisations:



Both Breast Cancer Network Australia and Cancer Australia recognise the importance of the BreastSurgANZ Quality Audit, providing information and links back to the audit on their websites:

<https://www.bcna.org.au/understanding-breast-cancer/treatment/surgery>

<https://www.canceraustralia.gov.au/affected-cancer/cancer-types/breast-cancer/treatment/surgery/choosing-surgeon>

Privacy

The BreastSurgANZ Quality Audit is bound by the Australian Privacy Principles which are set out in the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)* and the Information Privacy Principles in the *Privacy Act 1993 (New Zealand)*. We are strongly committed to protecting your privacy.

Access to your personal information in the audit must be requested from your surgeon.

Changes

The audit may modify or amend its policies at any time provided these changes comply with applicable laws. Formal notice of amendments will not ordinarily be given; however, the current processes will be available at www.surgeons.org/bqa.

Questions or Concerns

If you have any questions or concerns about allowing your information to be used in the audit, please discuss them with your surgeon or contact the audit team at the College. We may require that your concerns be raised in writing. We will seek to resolve any concerns as promptly as possible.

The decision about taking part in the audit is entirely up to you. You are under no obligation to participate and if you decide not to, it will have no impact on your treatment plan. If you do not wish to participate in the audit, please tell your surgeon or contact the audit team.

Contact

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Website: www.surgeons.org/bqa



I decline to participate in the BreastSurgANZ Quality Audit

Full name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Surgeon name: _____

Patient signature: _____ Date: _____