

As part of an ongoing Information Governance assessment, the West Midlands Perinatal Institute is updating supporting documentation relating to the various databases it is collecting, storing and analysing.

The data collected and held represents agreed datasets and is collected in line with strict protocols, including:

- **Consent**
All potential data subjects are asked for permission to collect, hold and analyse data. Arrangements are in place to ensure those that do not provide consent have any data about them excluded. The consent protocol has been reviewed and approved by the Information Commissioner
- **Confidentiality**
Policies and procedures are in place to ensure all data is handled confidentially and that all staff adhere to the confidentiality policies and procedure
- **Data Handling**
Data is handled in accordance with current NHS guidelines and standards. In particular, access to patient identifiable information is controlled and any electronic exchange of patient information is only to appropriate approved bodies. Electronic data exchange is carried out with reference to NHS standards.
- **Data security**
Data is held on secure servers with appropriate access controls and back up arrangements. The servers themselves are kept in a locked, environmentally controlled server room which is located within the secure PI premises.

Full documentation about the Institute's data protocols is available on www.pi.nhs.uk/data.

Data is collected and held in the following areas of care:

- Maternities
- Neonates & Infants
- Stillbirths, Neonatal and Infant Deaths
- Congenital Anomalies

Datasets are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure that the information obtained is appropriate and necessary to support the analyses required by stakeholders.

Many of these data collections have historical remits originating from RHA, Regional Levies Board, WM Strategic Commissioning Group, SHAs and PCTs. They require ongoing collection of data in order to monitor trends.