

DID YOU KNOW...

THAT YOUR DATA MAY HAVE HELPED US TO FIGHT INFECTIONS?

Information from people in Oxfordshire has already shown that

- A new super-fungus, called *Candida auris*, spreads between patients by equipment that is used multiple times and is hard to clean, like armpit thermometers – but is not spread by healthcare workers. Removing these thermometers stopped an outbreak in our hospitals.
- The biggest increases in bloodstream infections with a common microbe called *E. coli* are happening in people who have not recently been in hospital – and that using strong antibiotics outside of hospitals may be increasing resistance in these microbes, making antibiotics less likely to work in future. This has changed the focus on preventing these infections from hospitals to the community, particularly GP prescribing and making sure older people drink plenty of water to avoid getting dehydrated.

Routinely collected electronic data from hospital and GP records is used to construct **The Infections in Oxfordshire Research Database (IORD)**. This information is used to **help us prevent infections, improve treatments and improve services in the NHS**. IORD can only be used by researchers from universities who follow data protection laws – no commercial companies are allowed to use the database. IORD run by the NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, a partnership between Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Oxford. Unlike NHS databases, the IORD database does not contain any patient names, addresses, NHS or hospital numbers or

date of birth. Instead, records are identified by a specific, random, number. This means we know which records belong to different people, but not who they are.

Information about you does not have to be in the IORD database if you do not want this. **If you have any questions** about how your data (or your relative's data) is used in the IORD database, or would prefer your data isn't included, please **email IORD@ndm.ox.ac.uk**. Or you can email the overarching Oxford University Hospitals Information Governance team directly **Information.Governance@ouh.nhs.uk**

What kinds of information does IORD have in it?

- Admissions to hospital and what happened in them, like surgery or other hospital procedures, measurements of how they did like temperature and blood pressure, and antibiotics and other drugs they were given
- Attendance at outpatients and A&E
- Results from blood tests, other clinical samples and scans
- Which GP practice patients are registered at, and what region of the county they live in (not address or town)
- Visits to GP and prescriptions for antimicrobials or steroids (drugs that are relevant for infection)
- Sex, ethnicity and month and year of birth (not date)
- More detailed information about specific microbes grown from clinical samples, including genetic information about antibiotic resistance

Some of the questions you are helping us find answers to...

- Can a delayed discharge cause harm?
- How can we better identify and manage sepsis?
- Can the wrong antibiotics today make patients more likely to get resistant infections in the future?
- Are more people getting Streptococcal infections in Oxfordshire, and why?
- Which rapid diagnostic tests should be prioritised in the community?

For more information scan this QR code or visit oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk/IORD

