FAQs

These FAQs should be read in conjunction with the information contained in the notes section of the template.

Why is this template different to the one before?
The original template was modelled on the National audit of cancer diagnosis in primary care. The new template is significantly different, as it has been updated to reflect changes and additional data items that were collected as part of the last round of the NCDA.

What periods should the audit cover?
You can choose what period you would like to audit. The last official round of the NCDA audited patients diagnosed in 2014. If you did not take part in the last audit, you may wish to audit patients diagnosed in 2014. This would provide you with a baseline of pathways to cancer diagnosis before the NICE NG12 guidance was published. But equally, you may wish to audit patients who were diagnosed more recently.

We did the audit last time. When should we do a further audit?
Your previous participation in the audit can serve as your baseline. Doing a re-audit of patients diagnosed in 2016 will enable you to capture the effect of implementation of the NICE NG12 guidance that was published in 2015 and other changes that may have happened locally and nationally.

When will the next official NCDA take place?
The next official round of the NCDA is being planned for 2019 and will likely audit patients diagnosed from 2018 onwards. This is why we do not recommend that the audit template is used for patients diagnosed on or after 1 January 2018, as this could jeopardise your ability to take part in the next official NCDA.

The audit template asks for patient-identifiable data. What governance arrangements are in place for this data?
The Excel template provided is for internal audit use only. You are not asked to share the data you collect with anyone and you are responsible for keeping the data safe (i.e. do not send the completed Excel spreadsheet by email; do not leave printed copies on desks etc.).

The next official round of the NCDA is planned for 2019 and will collect data using a secure online portal.

To take part in the next NCDA, please keep an eye on announcements and visit www.cruk.org/ncda to find out more.