

Do I have a choice?

Yes, you do have the right to opt-out and this will not affect the care you receive.

However, in order to work properly, the registration system needs to know about everyone with cancer.

Your details help care teams to learn how best to treat cancer, make sure they provide the best care and help to find out the causes of cancer.

If you are concerned about your details being registered or any other issues in this leaflet, please discuss this with your Doctor or contact the N. Ireland Cancer Registry directly Tel 028 9063 2573.

Where can I get more information?

If you have any questions, you can get more information by:

- contacting Cancer Focus Northern Ireland previously known as the Ulster Cancer Foundation on Freephone Helpline 0800 783 3339; 9.00 am - 1.00 pm, Monday to Friday or N. Ireland Cancer Registry 028 9063 2573.
- visiting the cancer registration website at www.qub.ac.uk/nicr; the website has a useful section on common questions about the cancer registration system.

If you are a child with cancer or the parent of a child with cancer, you can get further information by visiting the Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group's website at www.cclg.org.uk.

This leaflet was adapted for use in Northern Ireland from the NHS "About cancer registration" leaflet which received the following awards:



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If you require further copies of this publication please contact the N. Ireland Cancer Registry:

Tel: 028 9063 2573
Fax: 028 9024 8017
Email: nicr@qub.ac.uk



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About Cancer Registration A leaflet for patients



What is cancer registration?

When someone is diagnosed with cancer or a condition that might lead to cancer, the doctor or hospital records the relevant details. This applies to people of all ages, including children.

This information is collected by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry and we would like to make sure that patients know this is happening.

Why is registration necessary?

Registration is the only way that we can see how many people are getting cancer and what types of cancer they have.

Most countries in the world have a registration system including England, Wales, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland. Registration has been running in Northern Ireland since 1993.

By working with cancer researchers, cancer registries have been able to identify the causes of some cancers. It also allows us to look at how cancer patients are treated and how successful treatments have been for different types of cancer. Registration also helps us to make sure cancer screening programmes are working.

Registration shows whether the number of people getting cancer is going up or down, so the health service can make sure services and staff are available in the right place.

The information registered is vital for research into cancer. Cancer registration is supported by all the main cancer charities.

What do you need to know about me?

We need to know some details about you (such as your name, address, age and sex). We need these details to make sure we are recording the right information about the right person.

We also need to know about the type of cancer or condition you have, the treatment you are receiving or have already received and your progress. Other diseases for example heart disease may affect survival so we need also to know about other diseases so we can accurately account for survival differences.

We need this information to help us to identify possible causes of cancer and to find out about the best treatments.

Do I need to do anything?

No, you do not need to do anything - there are no forms to fill in and nothing to sign.

Your hospital or doctor will confidentially pass the relevant information to your local cancer registry during your care.

What will we do with this information?

We are very careful with the information and follow strict rules about how we look after it and who can use it.

We store the information on computers in a safe place with secure passwords. It is all kept strictly confidential and is only available to appropriate staff.

Reports that we publish will never identify any particular person, even if they have a rare cancer.

Will anyone contact me?

The Registry works with researchers to improve understanding of cancer. Usually this is with information which would not identify a person. Occasionally for some studies a researcher may need to contact patients. This is done only under strict conditions and your consent would be sought through your doctor before this would happen.