



Suicide by NHS staff: a national data collection to inform prevention

May 2025

Standard Operating Procedure

NHS England have asked the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and

Introduction

Safety in Mental Health (NCISH) to establish a comprehensive data collection on all NHS staff who die by suicide. the purpose of this data collection is to record the number, characteristics and contributory factors associated with staff deaths within the NHS across England. Access to timely data on suicide by NHS staff is crucial to identify common

workplace and support factors that could be modified for the safety of NHS staff, and to help prevent future deaths. Organisational knowledge of these tragic deaths can also inform timely bereavement support for colleagues. Scope

This prospective data collection is employer based and will include staff

employed by NHS acute and mental health trusts. We will initially gather information about doctors, nurses and allied health professionals who died by suspected suicide. We recognise the devastating impact that suicide has on colleagues, families and friends. We have resources available to support Trusts with this data collection and their own suicide prevention strategies. On becoming aware of the death of a staff member by suspected suicide, the

person identified to be the key contact for this data collection should

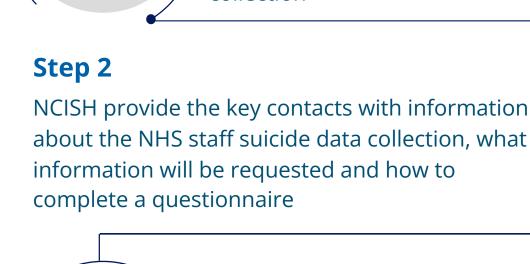
complete and submit an online questionnaire. We do not request names,

dates of birth or dates of death, and ask that you do not include identifiable information. We acknowledge that some variables are sensitive and carry a risk of re-identification, and so we treat this data as pseudonymised. Information provided for this data collection will be kept safe and secure under strict data management controls. We request that you complete a questionnaire for any death by suspected suicide by doctors, nurses and allied health professionals from January 2024 until April 2026. Ethical approval to establish this data collection has been

granted by the University of Manchester Research Ethics Committee (REF:

Step 1 NCISH contacts the Chief Executive at the Trust

Procedure



2025-22448-40733).

Step 3

for the data collection

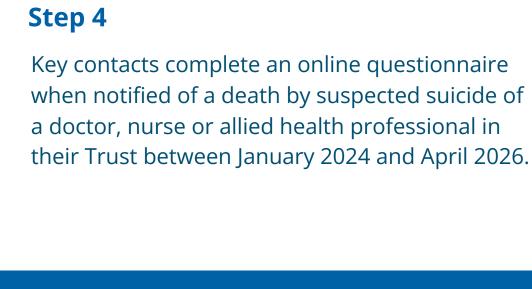
collection

about the NHS staff suicide data collection, what information will be requested and how to

NCISH seek Information Governance approvals

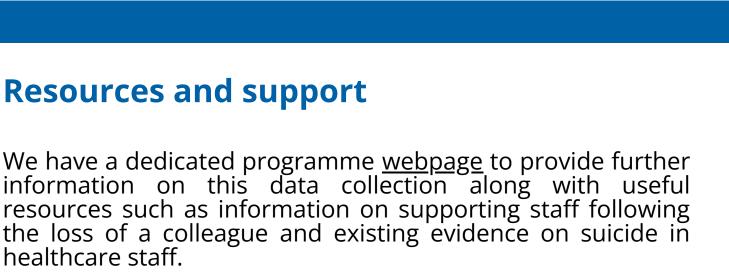
to identify a key point of contact in HR or

Employee wellbeing to assist with this data



healthcare staff.

Resources and support



being requested. A 'Frequently Asked Questions' document is also available. Please contact ncish@nhs.net if you have any further questions.

Our detailed information sheet outlines what information is

NCISH will provide each NHS Trust Information Governance and/or Research and Development departments with a programme pack for this data collection to ensure approvals are in place. Key contacts in HR will be notified once approvals are in place to begin this data collection.