



## **ACCEPT Audit 2024: Audit of Current Care Pathways for Tinnitus**

### **Clinical Audit Department Letter**

Dear Caldicott Guardian,

### **ENT INTEGRATE ACCEPT Audit 2024: Audit of Current Care Pathways for Tinnitus**

I am requesting permission to collect data from this Trust for the ENT INTEGRATE ACCEPT Audit.

#### **Overview of the Audit**

Tinnitus affects approximately 14% of the general population, often causing distress and affecting quality of life. Despite tinnitus contributing a considerable portion of the outpatient workload in ENT, Audiology and Audiovestibular medicine departments, understanding of the causative pathophysiological mechanisms and optimal management strategies for tinnitus patients remains poor, and there are limited standardised guidelines available to clinicians.

INTEGRATE have proposed a national retrospective observational audit of practice to understand the presentation, investigation, management strategies and outcomes of patients with tinnitus within secondary and tertiary care ENT, Audiology, and Audiovestibular Medicine departments in the UK.

#### **Primary objectives:**

To better understand the presentation, investigation, management and natural history of patients with constant tinnitus, requiring treatment. Patients will be identified via ear nose and throat, audiology or audiovestibular medicine and services across the United Kingdom (please see Patient Identification Process section below).

#### **Time period for data required**

Data will be collected for patients presenting between 1st August 2022 and 31st October 2022.

#### **Receiving Organisation**

Organisation Name: ENT INTEGRATE

ENT INTEGRATE is a UK Trainee Research Network aiming to support trainee engagement in ENT research and audit through the participation of multicentre collaborative audits.

Contact details: [tinnitus@entintegrate.co.uk](mailto:tinnitus@entintegrate.co.uk)

## **Data Collection**

Collection of data will be recorded onto an Excel Data Tool. The completed Excel Data Tool allows data to be anonymised prior to secure submission to the project management team (PMT) at ENT INTEGRATE. No identifiable patient information will be submitted to PMT. This project will collect information about non-identifiable demographics, comorbidities, diagnoses, investigations, treatments, clinic outcomes. No patients will be identifiable in subsequent reports, presentations or publications. As such, consent from individual patients will not be required.

There will be no traceability from the PMT's database to local records. If any identifiable data is received, the files will be deleted and the site will be informed. There will be no impact on the management of patients following inclusion in the study.

This project has been determined to be an audit using the HRA decision tool available at <http://www.hra-decisiontools.org.uk/research/> and therefore does not require ethical approval.

The anonymised collated data will be held by the Project Management Team for at least 5 years on an NHS server to allow for appropriate scrutiny and reanalysis.

At the end of the analysis period, data will be deleted from shared server space and all backups will be overwritten or destroyed in line with NHS approved information destruction/deletion standards. Files will be securely deleted from computer systems (including any copies held on backup or archive media).

All members of the project management team at ENT INTEGRATE are employed by the NHS will have completed Information Governance training in accordance with their own Trusts requirements.

Members of the Project Management Team are aware of their obligations and legal requirements regarding personal confidential data. It is a condition of employment that all employees abide by their organisation's Data Protection Policy and confidentiality clause within their contract of employment.

You can read more about ENT INTEGRATE here: <https://entintegrate.co.uk/>

If you require any further clarification, please contact the Olfactory Dysfunction Audit team at: [tinnitus@entintegrate.co.uk](mailto:tinnitus@entintegrate.co.uk)

Yours Sincerely,  
ENT INTEGRATE Otology Subspecialty Committee