The 2012 National Oesophago-gastric Cancer Audit Annual Report was published on Monday 2 July and can be accessed from: www.ic.nhs.uk/ogreports.

The 2012 Annual Report of the National Oesophago-gastric Cancer Audit (NOGCA), is a continuation of the NOGCA that collected data on patients diagnosed between October 2007 and June 2009.

This report builds on the success of the previous phases, focusing on the results of an organisational audit and on longer-term follow-up and in-depth analysis of data collected in the First NOGCA.

The report highlights positive developments, but also points to potential improvements in selected areas:

• Further changes in the reorganisation of cancer services have been made resulting in fewer and more specialised centres performing a higher volume of oesophago-gastric cancer care than before
• There is substantial variation between Cancer Networks in the proportion of patients diagnosed following GP referral and emergency admission
• Three year follow-up of patients undergoing curative resection demonstrates better results than previously reported in the literature
• Completion rates of patients receiving palliative chemotherapy are low
• Hospital admissions of patients on a best-supportive care pathway are infrequent.

We would like to thank hospitals for the considerable time that their staff devoted to collecting and submitting the data and ask that they continue to do so for the next phases of the NOGCA.

Electronic copies can be downloaded at www.ic.nhs.uk/ogreports. Alternatively, printed copies can be ordered by contacting the HSCIC Contact Centre on 0845 300 6016 or emailing og@ic.nhs.uk.