



Hospital Leads Information Pack

Key responsibilities

The Hospital Lead is responsible for coordinating the study within their site.

Before study launch

1. Disseminate the project

We ask you to advertise and disseminate the study within your hospital as soon as possible, as gaining interest and momentum early on will ensure maximum participation from members of staff and medical students. Please consider announcing it at departmental lectures, meetings, or hospital events, sharing it via institutional bulletins and newsletters, and putting up posters in staff areas. We have created a flyer and a slide deck to help with this, which can be found [here](#).

We also encourage you to share or comment on our social media pages such as [LinkedIn](#) and publicise across any further forums as you deem fit.

2. Register SurgWeek-2 locally

It is your responsibility as hospital lead to ensure appropriate regulatory or ethical approvals have been obtained in your hospital as outlined below. Please coordinate with your national lead(s) whether national ethics approval is required, if it is required the national lead is responsible for applying for these. You will be asked to upload your approvals as part of the site survey before data collection.

Study registration in the UK

In the UK, SurgWeek-2 should **NOT** be registered as research and must instead be registered as an audit or service evaluation. The study is registered as a clinical audit at the lead centre, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust.

When registering the study as a clinical audit, it must be emphasised that:

- All data collected will measure current practice.
- There will be no changes to normal patient pathways or treatment.
- There are no additional tests or follow-up required.
- Only anonymised data will be uploaded to the online database.

For more information on study registration in the UK, please refer to Appendix E of the protocol.

Study registration outside the UK

Outside the UK, if possible, the study should be registered as an audit or service evaluation. If your hospital participated in SurgWeek-1 in 2020, consider whether an amendment to that approval is possible to cover this study.



Patients should only be consented for inclusion in the study if this is required by a research ethics committee at your hospital. If you must apply for research ethics review, consider requesting a waiver for patient consent based on the following considerations:

- All data collected will measure current practice.
- There will be no changes to normal patient pathways or treatment.
- There are no additional tests or follow-up required.
- Only anonymised data will be uploaded to the online database.

All participating hospitals must have appropriate regulatory or ethical approvals in place prior to data collection and must be able to evidence this. The study team reserves the right to exclude data if evidence for necessary local centre approvals is not provided.

For more information on study registration outside the UK, please refer to pages 6 and 7 of the protocol.

3. Ensure you have access to REDCap

To log on to REDCap for this study, you must use your unique username ending in '.sw2'. This will be emailed to you by the study team from a no-reply email starting in 'globalsurgenquiry'. If you can't find your username, please contact the study team at surgweek@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

4. Select Hospital Co-Leads and organise the mini teams

You will receive a list of everyone in your study site who expressed their interest in participating via the expression of interest (EoI) form on REDCap. You will be responsible for selecting your Hospital Co-Leads, who will support you to identify, coordinate, and register the mini teams for data collection.

During the study

1. Complete hospital-level (site) survey

You will be responsible for completing a hospital-level survey to capture additional details about your study site. This survey will be sent to you by the study team and will need to be completed before the first period of patient-level data collection. Only one survey will need to be completed per hospital / study site.

2. Coordinate study in your site

As Hospital Lead, you are the primary point of contact for SurgWeek-2 in your study site. Whilst the study is running, please make sure you maintain effective and responsive communication with the National Leads, Hospital Co-Leads, and local collaborators.

You can participate in as many of the 6 data collection periods as you wish (see below). Please encourage as many surgical specialities as possible to register a Co-Lead and take part in data collection. Mini-teams (3 people per team) can choose to collect data from one or multiple specialties and for one or multiple study periods. There is no limit on the number of mini-teams in a hospital.

If you have any country-specific queries about the study, please contact your National Lead in the first instance. A list of National Leads is available [here](#).



3. Ensure data completion

Please ensure that all mini-teams taking part in data collection complete all the relevant data for the period in which they are participating, including the 30-day follow-up.

After the study

1. Disseminate publications

Please disseminate any publications that result from this study. Dissemination materials will be provided on the SurgWeek-2 website once available.

2. Report to local ethics committee (if applicable)

If you requested local ethics approval, please ensure that you provide them with any necessary reports or publications.

Authorship

All National Leads, Hospital Leads and Co-Leads, and mini-team collaborators who contribute to data collection will be included as PubMed-citable co-authors on all resulting publications, according to their roles.

Study overview

Please see the protocol summary below. The full study protocol can be found [here](#).

Background: Surgery is a core component of healthcare, fundamental to delivery of maternity, trauma, and cancer care. Around 313 million people undergo surgery each year. However, postoperative complications place a heavy burden on patients, communities, and health systems; an estimated 50 million adults experience postoperative complications each year. Complications can prolong hospital admissions, increase healthcare costs, result in disability, and lead to 3.5 postoperative million deaths each year. Despite the importance of postoperative complications, there is limited high-quality postoperative outcome data in many settings.

Aim: The aim of this international, prospective, multicentre cohort study is to assess global burden and variation of postoperative complications.

Logistics: This investigator-led study will include consecutive patients undergoing surgery across six, 7-day data collection blocks between 31 August 2026 and 11 October 2026. Any hospital that delivers surgery is eligible to participate. Mini-teams of up to three collaborators will collect data for one or multiple specialities, and one or multiple 7-day data collection blocks. To maximise the number of specialties and/or 7-day data collection blocks covered, hospitals can set-up multiple mini-teams. Hospital Leads will coordinate mini-teams at their hospital and ensure that all necessary study approvals are in place before data collection starts.



Methodology: All adult and paediatric patients undergoing elective or emergency surgery will be included. 30-day follow-up data will be collected from routine hospital records. The primary outcome will be overall 30-day postoperative complications. There will be no changes to routine patient care. The primary outcome will be 30-day postoperative complications.

Discussion: This study will provide robust, contemporary global data on the burden and variation of 30-day postoperative complications across diverse healthcare settings. The findings will inform benchmarking, guide quality improvement initiatives, and support strategies to reduce postoperative morbidity and mortality worldwide.

Data collection periods

Block	Inclusion starts	Inclusion ends	30-day follow-up ends
Block 1	00:00 31 August 2026	23:59 6 September 2026	6 October 2026
Block 2	00:00 7 September 2026	23:59 13 September 2026	13 October 2026
Block 3	00:00 14 September 2026	23:59 20 September 2026	20 October 2026
Block 4	00:00 21 September 2026	23:59 27 September 2026	27 October 2026
Block 5	00:00 28 September 2026	23:59 4 October 2026	3 November 2026
Block 6	00:00 5 October 2026	23:59 11 October 2026	10 November 2026

Key contacts and links

You can find all the information about the study on the [SurgWeek-2 website](#).

If you have any queries, you can contact us at surgweek@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

Due to the expected high level of inquiries, **we invite you to consult the website [FAQ section](#) and the [study protocol](#) before raising any query with the study team**, as these should help answer most questions.

If you have any country-specific queries about the study, please contact your National Lead in the first instance. A list of National Leads is available [here](#).