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# Standardising hospital wristbands

**Wristbands are used to identify hospital inpatients. When you are in hospital, it is essential that you are given and wear a wristband with accurate details about you on it. This ensures that staff can identify you correctly and give you the right care.**

The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) has issued advice to NHS hospitals on standardising wristbands so that every hospital uses the same design of wristband, and that the same patient information is included on each wristband.

This will help staff who work in a variety of hospitals to be clear about what information should go onto patients' wristbands.

## How you can help

**You can help ensure that wristbands are standardised by checking that the following core details are on the wristband you are given in hospital:**

- your first name;
- your last name;
- your date of birth;
- your NHS Number (if you have not been given an NHS Number, a temporary number will be used);
- the first line of your home address (this only applies if you are in hospital in Wales).

If the information on your wristband is not accurate, please tell a nurse and ask for a wristband with the correct information on it.

## About the NPSA

The NPSA promotes safer healthcare by collecting and analysing information about patient safety incidents from staff and patients, and through working with NHS organisations to promote an open and fair culture.

If you would like more information about the NPSA's work, visit our website at: [www.npsa.nhs.uk](http://www.npsa.nhs.uk)

