Cancer and Covid-19 research dashboard

Guidance document – September 2021

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted cancer services and patients, driving new research into quantifying and understanding this impact across the pathway.

At the meeting of the NHS England Cancer Data and Analytics Advisory Group (CDAAG) in January 2021, it was agreed to collate a list of completed and ongoing cancer and Covid-19 research projects or studies and to create a public dashboard to display this list to:

- Enable the identification of gaps in activity and opportunities for new research

- Avoid duplication of effort

- Drive collaborations in the field

- Understand potential data needs of this new research area

Initially, 85 studies were uploaded to the dashboard. Information on these was gathered by colleagues from NHSE, PHE, CRUK and NCRI (project group) using publicly available information and knowledge of projects or studies obtained via formal and informal networks. From that point onward, studies are submitted via the online form on the NCRI website.

Please note the following regarding the cancer and Covid-19 research dashboard:

- It is not intended to draw insights or conclusions about cancer and Covid-19 from the content captured or endorse the listed projects or studies in any way.

- Projects and studies have not necessarily been peer-reviewed, are not checked against this and are not vetted against any metrics.

- The dashboard is not set up to provide an exhaustive list of cancer and Covid-19 research activity, but we hope that a large proportion of completed and ongoing research projects have been captured.

- We cannot guarantee that information provided on the cancer and Covid-19 research dashboard is accurate as we rely on public submissions, but we do our utmost to check all information for accuracy. We welcome requests to update or change information on listed projects or studies, which can be submitted via the online form on the NCRI website.

- While we appreciate that research on the impact of Covid-19 is an international effort, the remit is to primarily focus on UK studies and international projects or studies with involvement from UK centres or with UK participants.

- The remit for what type of project or study we include on the dashboard is purposefully very broad.

Studies in remit include:

- Cohort studies

- Data collection/observational/registry/audit projects or studies

- Sub-studies or individual publications from the larger collaboratives

- Studies on specific cancer types, as well as studies across different cancers or all cancers

- International projects or studies with a UK arm or capturing/using UK data or data on UK participants

- Clinical trials on Covid-19 treatments or vaccines that include cancer patients (incl. vaccine efficacy studies)

- Platform trials where a Covid-19 arm has been added, or where data on Covid-19's impact on trial cohorts is captured

- Multicentre or national studies as well as single centre or local studies

- Studies into the underlying biology of cancer and Covid-19 and outcomes in Covid-19 positive cancer patients

- Studies that didn't collect or analyse clinical data but are relevant to cancer and Covid-19 or explore a link between the two, e.g. research to assess the efficacy of antiandrogens used in prostate cancer as a treatment option for Covid-19

- Survey-based studies to capture healthcare professionals or patient experiences and insights

- UK projects/groups that produced recommendations on guidance/practice changes in response to Covid-19 to help with clinical decision making
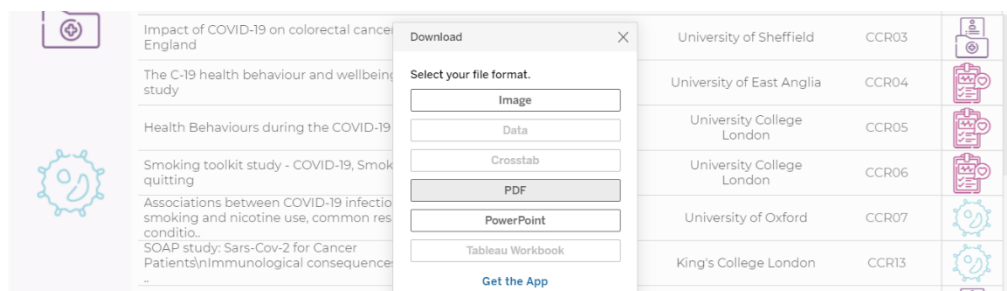
Dashboard download function:

The download function can be found at the bottom right of the dashboard. It allows the download of an image, PDF or PowerPoint version of a specific view (i.e. list of projects/studies) from the dashboard, so for example when certain filters are selected and it would be useful to export the list of those projects or studies.
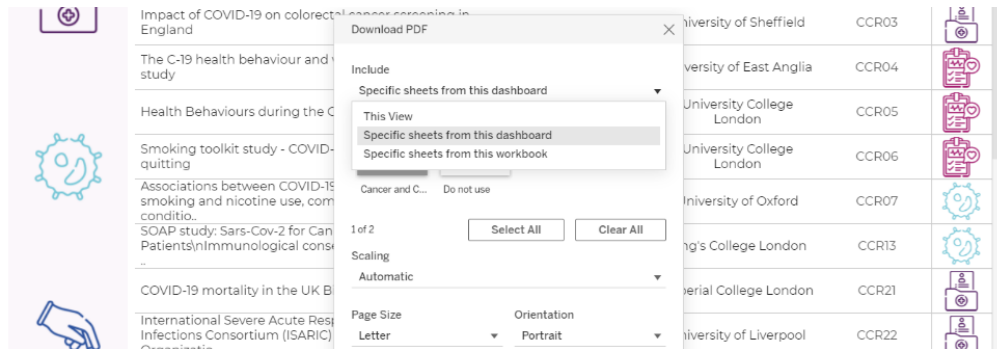
The recommended format is PDF.

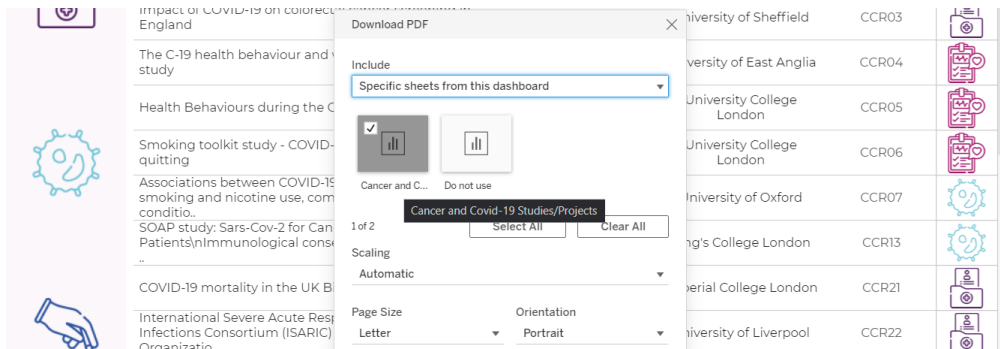Step 1 – After selecting the desired filter options press the download icon.
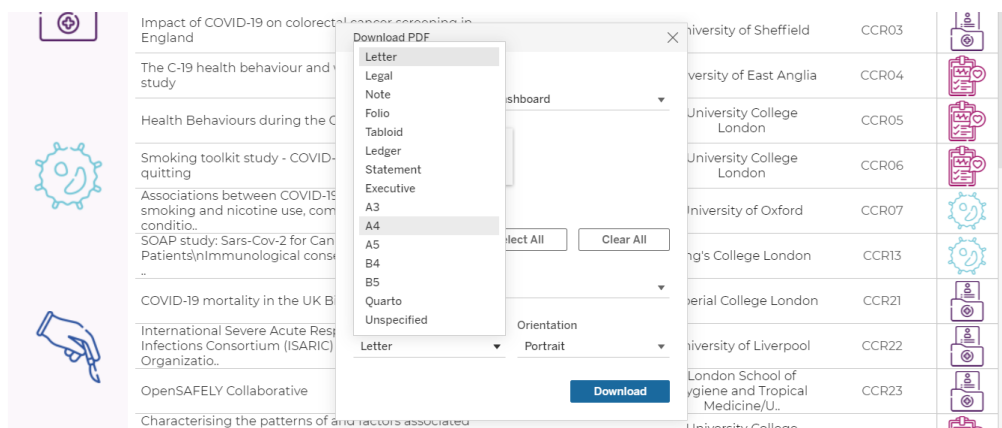

Step 2 – Select "PDF".

Step 3 – Select "Specific sheets from this dashboard" in the dropdown to include all projects or studies in the export that are listed under the set parameters.

Step 4 – Select "Cancer and Covid-19 Studies/Projects".

Step 5 – Scaling can be kept as "Automatic". Next select the page size (recommended: A4) and orientation. Then click download and the PDF list will be downloaded to the browsers download folder.

If you require more detailed information on the projects/studies listed or have any questions regarding the dashboard or any of the above, please get in touch.

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