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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR

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Title: NHS Wales National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review Plan
Annual Rolling Programme for 2024/25

Date of Expiry / Review: April 2025

Action by:

Required by: N/A

**Health Boards and NHS Trusts
National Clinical Leads**

For Information

**Chief Executives
Medical Directors
Directors of Primary Care**

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Enclosures: NHS Wales National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review Plan: Annual Rolling
Programme from 2024/2025

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd / This document is also available in Welsh
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg / We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh

Dr Frank Atherton

Prif Swyddog Meddygol/Cyfarwyddwr Meddygol, GIG Cymru

Chief Medical Officer/Medical Director NHS Wales

Dear Colleagues,

Health boards and trusts in Wales are required to fully participate in all national clinical audits and outcome reviews listed in the annual National Clinical Audit & Outcome Review Annual Plan. This circular provides a copy of the National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review Plan for 2024/25, which shall also be available via the Welsh Government website.

National clinical audits are a major source of information aimed at measuring and benchmarking the improvement of healthcare services in Wales. The audit data are used to assess the quality and effectiveness of the healthcare provided by health boards and trusts and can make a big difference to the way we provide services when coupled with suitable improvement actions. It is essential all parts of NHS Wales participate fully in the national programme.

The Plan details the role each of us has for taking this work forward and includes the list of National Clinical Audits and Outcome Reviews which all healthcare organisations must fully participate when they provide the service.

If you have any queries regarding the annual plan please contact:

wgclinicalaudit@gov.wales.

Yours sincerely



DR FRANK ATHERTON

NHS Wales National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review Plan

Annual Rolling Programme from 2024/25

May 2024

The annual National Clinical Audit and Outcomes Review Plan confirms the list of National Clinical Audits and Outcome Reviews all health boards and trusts are expected to participate in 2024-25 (where they provide the service). The plan confirms how the findings from audits and reviews will be used to measure and drive forward improvements in the quality and safety of healthcare services in Wales.

Section 1 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 places a duty on the Welsh Ministers to continue the promotion of a comprehensive health service designed to secure improvement in the physical and mental health of the people of Wales. Section 2 of that Act empowers Welsh Ministers to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of that duty.

1. What do we want to achieve?

NHS Wales needs to be a learning organisation, which regularly seeks to measure the quality of its services against consistently improving standards and, in comparison with other healthcare systems across the UK, Europe and the World. This measurement should be used to set improvement priorities.

The Welsh Government and NHS Wales are committed to the principles of value-based healthcare to help meet the challenges of rising costs and increasing demand, while continuing to improve the quality of care.

Clinical audit is an integral component of the quality improvement process and is embedded within the Welsh healthcare standards.

2. The programme of audits

The agreed NHS Wales programme of audits includes the majority of audits currently supported by the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcome Programme (NCAPOP) managed by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) but can also include a number of other national or multi-organisational audits recognised as being essential.

The Clinical Outcome Review Programmes (formerly Confidential Enquiries) are commissioned by HQIP on behalf of the Welsh Government, NHS England, Northern Ireland Department of Health, Scottish Government and the Channel Island and Isle of Man governments. The programme is designed to help assess the quality of healthcare and stimulate improvement

in safety and effectiveness by systematically enabling clinicians, managers and policy makers to learn from adverse events and other relevant data.

The final agreed list of audits and reviews is published annually. The programme for 2024-25 is attached at Annex A & B below.

3. How will participation, learning and action on findings be encouraged throughout Wales?

National clinical audits (NCA) are not just an impetus for service improvement and value-based healthcare. They help benchmark, identify best practice, provide assurance, and monitor and evaluate change.

Continued encouragement of audit:

- Feedback relating to the benchmarked performance of individual providers within clinical audits and reviews to organisations as appropriate for reflection and action.
- By raising the profile of clinical audit with boards, patient groups, clinicians and all staff working within the NHS. To include, organisational visits and liaison with professional bodies in Wales to encourage audit amongst their disciplines and specialism.
- Developing closer partnerships working with health boards/trusts clinical audit teams to improve knowledge and understanding of national and local audit/review activities.
- Working in partnership with other healthcare organisations e.g. NHS Executive, Public Health Wales, Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW) to promote and encourage a culture of participation in audit and action on findings.

Identifying areas needing a national approach to improvement:

- Reviewing common issues for all Welsh healthcare providers arising from audit and reviews and sharing solutions.
- By ensuring the findings and recommendations from audits are fully considered by the appropriate national advisory groups/networks.
- Working in partnership, via HQIP and with audit project teams to ensure the provision of Welsh-specific findings and potential solutions, and develop and organise workshops and events to disseminate them.

Addressing clinical services where performance may give cause for concern:

- Clearly identifying the comparative performance of individual provider organisations and understanding the reasons for any unwarranted variation.

- Ensuring issues are considered in regular performance review meetings between health boards/trusts and in Welsh Government Quality Delivery Board meetings.
- Ensuring a process for the identification and handling of organisations identified in audits and reviews as being “Outliers” including such activity designed to improve and encourage quality improvement.

Greater transparency:

- By seeking to improve the way in which the findings, recommendations and improvement actions from audit and reviews are made available to patients, public and all staff working in the NHS.

4. What is the Role of Welsh Government?

In partnership with NHS England and HQIP, the Welsh Government supports and funds the cost of NHS Wales’ participation in the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcome Programme (NCAPOP). The Welsh Government along with DHCW will seek to encourage greater participation and learning from clinical audits and reviews leading to improved services, better patient outcomes and safer patient care.

The Welsh Government is a member of the NHS England Executive Quality Group – Clinical Audit Subgroup and provides the Welsh Government’s position and context to ensure the audits align with the long-term plan in Wales.

5. What is the Role of Digital Health and Care Wales

DHCW has become the joint data controller with HQIP for the delivery of any audits commissioned by HQIP as part of NCAPOP and for which Wales is involved and funds.

As part of its Statutory functions as a Special Health Authority, the Welsh Government has requested that DHCW identify data sharing opportunities to support clinicians and networks in Wales and provide advice and support to health boards.

6. What are the responsibilities of Welsh health boards and trusts?

Welsh health boards and trusts should provide the resources to enable their staff to participate in all audits, reviews and national registries included in the annual plan (where they provide the service). They should ensure participation and full case ascertainment with completion of a full audit cycle. The findings and recommendations from clinical audit should link directly into the quality improvement programme and lead to improved patient care and outcomes.

To ensure the maximum benefit is derived from the clinical audit programme health boards and trusts should:

- Ensure the necessary resources, governance and organisational structures are in place to support complete engagement in audits, reviews and national registries included in the annual Plan.
- Appoint a clinical lead to act as a champion and point of contact for every National Clinical Audit and Clinical Outcome Review Programme, which the health board is participating in. Health boards and trusts should also encourage and support clinical leads to take on the role of all-Wales representative on audit steering groups and networks where required.
- Ensure there is a formally recognised process for reviewing the organisations performance when reports are published. This review should include consideration of improvements (planned and delivered) and an escalation process to ensure the executive board is made aware when issues around participation, improvement and risk identification against recommendations are identified.
- Have clear lines of communication, which ensures full board engagement in the consideration of audit and review of findings and, where required, the change process to ensure improvements in the quality and safety of services take place.
- Work with DHCW to facilitate the wider use of data from audit and national registries to be used as supporting information for medical revalidation and peer review.
- Ensure learning from audit and review is shared across the organisation and communicated to staff and patients.
- Existing Data Sharing Agreements between the Health Boards and NHS Trusts shall be utilised for the information sharing event, and this should be documented on the National Information Flows Register as held by DHCW.
- DHCW, Local Health Boards and the Trusts shall produce such Data Privacy Impact Assessments (DPIAs) as may be necessary to comply with the GDPR where new identifiable data is to be shared or otherwise processed.

Prior to 2022/23, health boards were tasked with submitting a proforma to Welsh Government for each published audit report. As the audit process has matured, audit results feed into a range of networks and policy development and as such it was determined that these proformas were an additional layer and no longer required. Since 2022/23 routine proformas to the Welsh Government for every audit have not been required. Welsh Government policy officials may ask for feedback when required.

7. How Will We Measure Success?

By year-on-year consideration of audit reports and in comparison with other UK, European and International healthcare systems to determine how

compliance with best practice and achievement of healthcare outcomes compares to national and international benchmarks.

The following key criteria will also be used for judging success:

- 100% participation+, appropriate levels of case ascertainment and submission of complete data sets by all health boards and trusts (where applicable) in the full programme of National Clinical Audits and Clinical Outcome Reviews.
- Less variation between local services and measurable year on year improvements in performance to achieve the highest standards. Organisations recognised as being above the audit “average” or within the top quartile for each audit and maintaining that level.
- Improvements in the quality and safety of patient outcomes and experience brought about by learning and action arising from the findings of National Clinical Audit and Clinical Outcome Review reports.

+ Where health boards/Trusts do not participate in a national clinical audit or clinical outcome review where they provide the service they will automatically be given alarm outlier status.

8. How Will We Maintain Success?

The audit and quality improvement approach has the advantage of engaging those placed to make change and those expected to deliver and maintain change on a daily basis. This approach has a demonstrated track record of delivering and maintaining service improvement for a range of issues in a range of settings. Where there are expectations of delivering and maintaining better quality care and outcomes, the audit and quality improvement should be the normally used first-line approach.

9. Conclusion

The findings and recommendations from national clinical audit, outcome reviews and all other forms of reviews and assessments will be one of the principal mechanisms for assessing the quality and effectiveness of healthcare services provided by health boards and trusts in Wales.

In line with our stated ambition to develop a healthcare service that is recognised as being one of the best in the world, and to drive forward improvement, the clinical audit process will also be used to assess Welsh healthcare services against similar services being provided in other countries across the UK, Europe and Internationally.

Annual Programme for 2024 - National Clinical Audit and Outcome Reviews

in which all Welsh health boards and trusts must participate (where services are provided)

ACUTE				
National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2024/25
National Joint Registry	Joints	https://www.njrcentre.org.uk/	enquiries@njrcentre.org.uk	Yes
Case Mix Programme (CMP), Intensive Care National Audit & Research Centre (ICNARC)	Intensive care	https://www.icnarc.org/	cmp@icnarc.org	Yes
National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA)*	Emergency Laparotomy	https://www.nela.org.uk/	NELA@rcoa.ac.uk	Yes
	Non-Laparotomy	https://www.nela.org.uk/	NELA@rcoa.ac.uk	Yes
National Major Trauma Registry (previously TARN)	Trauma	To be confirmed	england.support.nmtr@nhs.net	To commence in 2024

OLDER PEOPLE

National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2024/25
Falls and Fragility Fracture Audit Programme (FFFAP) *	Fracture Liaison Service Database (FLS-DB)	https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/fracture-liaison-service-database-fls-db	FLSDB@rcp.ac.uk	Yes
	National Audit of Inpatient Falls (NAIF)	https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/national-audit-inpatient-falls-naif	FFFAP@rcp.ac.uk	Yes
	National Hip Fracture Database (NHFD)	https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/national-hip-fracture-database-nhfd	nhfd@rcp.ac.uk	Yes
National Audit of Dementia *		https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/improving-care/ccqi/national-clinical-audits/national-audit-of-dementia	nad@rcpsych.ac.uk	Yes
Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP) *		https://www.strokeaudit.org/Home.aspx	ssnap@kcl.ac.uk	Yes

CANCER

National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2024/25
National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre*	National Audit of Metastatic Breast Cancer	https://www.natcan.org.uk/audits/metastatic-breast/	breastcancer audits@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes

CANCER

National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2024/25
	National Audit of Primary Breast Cancer	https://www.natcan.org.uk/audits/primary-breast/	breastcanceraudits@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes
	National Bowel Cancer Audit (NBOCA)	https://www.nboca.org.uk/	nboca@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes
	National Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audit (NOGCA)	https://www.nogca.org.uk/	OGcanceraudit@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes
	National Lung Cancer Audit (NLCA)	https://www.lungcanceraudit.org.uk/	NLCA@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes
	National Prostate Cancer Audit (NPCA)	https://www.npca.org.uk/	npca@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes
	National Ovarian Cancer Audit	https://www.natcan.org.uk/audits/ovarian/	Ovariancanceraudit@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes
	National Pancreatic Cancer Audit	https://www.natcan.org.uk/audits/pancreatic/	Pancreaticcanceraudit@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes
	National Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma Audit	https://www.natcan.org.uk/audits/non-hodgkin-lymphoma/	NHLaudit@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes
	National Kidney Cancer Audit	https://www.natcan.org.uk/audits/kidney/	Kidneycanceraudit@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes

LONG TERM CONDITIONS

National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2024/25
Renal Registry (UK Kidney Association) #	Renal	https://ukkidney.org/about-us/who-we-are/uk-renal-registry	renalregistry@renalregistry.nhs.uk	Yes
National Early Inflammatory Arthritis Audit (NEIAA) *#	Inflammatory Arthritis	https://arthritisaudit.org.uk/	audit@rheumatology.org.uk	Yes
National Paediatric Diabetes Audit (NPDA) *#	Paediatric Diabetes	https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/work-we-do/clinical-audits/npda	npda@rcpch.ac.uk	Yes
National Adult Diabetes Audit (NDA) *	National Diabetes Core Audit - Care Processes/Treatment Targets - Complications & Mortality - Type 1 Diabetes - Learning Disability and Mental Health - Structured Education	https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/clinical-audits-and-registries/national-diabetes-audit/core	diabetes@nhs.net	Yes
	Diabetes Prevention Programme (DPP) Audit	https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/clinical-audits-and-registries/national-diabetes-audit/core	diabetes@nhs.net	Yes
	National Diabetes Footcare Audit (NDFA)	https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/clinical-audits-and-registries/national-diabetes-foot-care-audit	ndfa@nhs.net	Yes

LONG TERM CONDITIONS

National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2024/25
	National Diabetes Inpatient Safety Audit (NDISA)	https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/clinical-audits-and-registries/national-diabetes-inpatient-safety-audit	ndisa@nhs.net	Yes
	Gestational Diabetes Audit #	https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/clinical-audits-and-registries/gestational-diabetes-mellitus-audit	england.gdm1@nhs.net	Yes
	National Pregnancy in Diabetes Audit (NPID) #	https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/clinical-audits-and-registries/national-pregnancy-in-diabetes-audit	npid@nhs.net	Yes
	NDA Integrated Specialist Survey	https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/clinical-audits-and-registries/nda-integrated-specialist-survey	diabetes@nhs.net	Yes
	Transition (Adolescents and Young Adults) and Young Type 2 Audit	https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/clinical-audits-and-registries/national-diabetes-audit	enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk	Yes
National Respiratory Audit Programme (NRAP) *#	Adult Asthma Secondary Care	https://www.rcp.ac.uk/projects/adult-asthma-secondary-care-workstream	nrapinbox@rcp.ac.uk	Yes
	COPD Secondary Care	https://www.rcp.ac.uk/projects/copd-secondary-care-workstream		Yes
	Paediatric Asthma Secondary Care	https://www.rcp.ac.uk/projects/children-and-young-people-s-asthma-secondary-care-workstream		Yes

LONG TERM CONDITIONS

National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2024/25
	Pulmonary Rehabilitation	https://www.rcp.ac.uk/projects/pulmonary-rehabilitation-pr-workstream		Yes
	Wales Primary Care Audit	https://www.rcp.ac.uk/projects/primary-care-workstream		Yes
All Wales Audiology Audit #		NHS Wales Adult Audiology Quality Standards NHS Wales Paediatric Audiology Quality Standards	jane.deans@wales.nhs.uk	Yes

END OF LIFE CARE

National programme name	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2024/25
National Audit of Care at the End of Life (NACEL) *	https://www.nhsbenchmarking.nhs.uk/nacel	Nhsbn.nacelsupport@nhs.net	Yes

HEART				
National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2024/25
National Audit of Cardiac Rehabilitation		http://www.cardiacrehabilitation.org.uk/	corinna.petre@york.ac.uk	
National Vascular Registry (NVR) *		https://www.vsqip.org.uk/	nvr@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes
National Cardiac Audit Programme (NCAP)	Myocardial Ischaemia National Audit Project (MINAP)	https://www.nicor.org.uk/	nicor.auditenquiries@nhs.net	Yes
	National Adult Cardiac Surgery Audit			
	National Audit of Cardiac Rhythm Management (CRM)			
	National Audit of Percutaneous Coronary Interventions (PCI) (Coronary Angioplasty)			
	National Congenital Heart Disease Audit (NCHDA) #			
National Heart Failure Audit				

HEART				
National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2024/25
	National Audit of Mitral Valve Leaflet Repairs (MVLR) NEW			
	The UK Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) Registry NEW			

MENTAL HEALTH			
National programme name	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2024/25
National Clinical Audit of Psychosis (NCAP) *	http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/NCAP	NCAP@rcpsych.ac.uk	Yes

WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH			
National programme name	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2024/25
National Clinical Audit of Seizures and Epilepsies for Children and Young People (Epilepsy12) *#	https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/work-we-do/quality-improvement-patient-safety/epilepsy12-audit	epilepsy12@rcpch.ac.uk	Yes
National Maternity and Perinatal Audit (NMPA) *#	https://maternityaudit.org.uk/	nmpa@rcog.org.uk	Yes

WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH			
National programme name	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2024/25
National Neonatal Audit Programme (NNAP) *	https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/work-we-do/clinical-audits/nnap	nnap@rcpch.ac.uk	Yes
Paediatric Intensive Care Audit Network (PICANet) *#	https://www.picanet.org.uk/	picanet@leeds.ac.uk	Yes
Perinatal Mortality Review Tool (PMRT) #	https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/pmrt	mbrracele@npeu.ox.ac.uk	Yes

(* denotes part of NCAPOP)

(# denotes reports likely to include information on children and / or maternity services)

Clinical Outcomes Review Programme

The **Clinical Outcome Review Programme** (CORP) is designed to help assess the quality of healthcare, and stimulate improvement in safety and effectiveness by enabling learning from adverse events and other relevant data. It aims to complement and contribute to the work of other agencies such as NICE, the Royal Colleges and academic research studies, which support changes to improve NHS healthcare.

Without high quality data, improvement in clinical care is unlikely to occur. National clinical audits and outcome reviews are focused on areas of healthcare considered to be important, where there are often issues of concern and where national results are considered essential to improve practice and standards.

With the ability to measure against recognised standards and compare services on a local, regional or national basis, clinical audit and outcome reviews are very powerful tools for assessing the quality of services being provided. When used as part of the wider quality improvement cycle, they provide a strong mechanism for driving service change and improving patient outcomes, but full participation and a determination to learn from the findings is essential.

Service provider contracts for these programmes have been awarded to the following suppliers (links are provided to website homepages):

OUTCOME REVIEW PROGRAMMES				
National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Programme website	Email	Collecting data in 2024/25
Child Health Clinical Outcome Review Programme *	Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis	https://www.ncepod.org.uk/	ncepod@nhs.net	Yes
	Testicular torsion			Yes

OUTCOME REVIEW PROGRAMMES

National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Programme website	Email	Collecting data in 2024/25
	Transition from child to adult health services #			
Maternal, Newborn and Infant Clinical Outcome Review Programme (MBRRACE) *#		https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/mbrrace-uk	Mbrrace-uk@npeu.ox.ac.uk	Yes
Medical and Surgical Clinical Outcome Review Programme (NCEPOD) *	Community Acquired Pneumonia	https://www.ncepod.org.uk/	ncepod@nhs.net	Yes
	Crohn's Disease			
	End of Life Care			Yes
	Endometriosis			Yes
	Epilepsy			
Mental Health Clinical Outcome Review Programme * (National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH))		www.manchester.ac.uk/ncish/	ncish@manchester.ac.uk	Yes

(* denotes part of NCAPOP)

(# denotes reports likely to include information on children and / or maternity services)