



WHC 2026/27

WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR

Status: INFORMATION/ACTION

Category: Health Professional Letter

Title: NHS Wales National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review Plan
Annual Rolling Programme for 2026/27

Date of Expiry / Review: April 2027

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 2026/2027

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

Professor Isabel Oliver
Chief Medical Officer
Brif Swyddog Meddygol

Dear Colleagues,


Health boards and trusts in Wales are required to participate fully in all 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 2026/27, 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 datasets 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 that 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 undertake when they provide the service.

If you have any queries regarding the annual plan please contact:
wgclinicalaudit@gov.wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isabel Oliver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Professor Isabel Oliver
Chief Medical Officer
Brif Swyddog Meddygol

NHS Wales National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review Plan

Annual Rolling Programme from 2026/27

May 2026

The annual National Clinical Audit and Outcomes Review Plan confirms the list of National Clinical Audits and Outcome Reviews that all health boards and trusts are expected to participate in during 2026-27 (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 that are currently supported by the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcome Programme (NCAPOP) and managed by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) but can also include a number of other national or multi-organisational audits that are 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 2026-27 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:

- Providing feedback relating to the benchmarked performance of individual providers within clinical audits and reviews to organisations as appropriate for reflection and action.
- 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 Performance and Improvement, 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.
- 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 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 the NHS Wales Performance and Improvement National Strategic Clinical Networks

The National Strategic Clinical Networks are designed to drive change, improve outcomes, reduce unwarranted variation, and improve the health and lives of people in Wales.

Working between operational service delivery in health boards and trusts and the formulation of policy and strategy in Welsh Government, each network has clinical leadership at its core. They draw directly on the expertise of clinicians working in front line service delivery in primary, community, secondary and tertiary care, with the expectation that those with expertise through lived experience are at the heart of what they plan and do.

Strategic Clinical Networks should focus on quality, safety, and effectiveness through facilitation of comparative internal and external benchmarking and auditing of services, through all stages of the national clinical audit cycle, with involvement in selection and commissioning of audits, implementation of required improvements, providing assurance to providers and commissioners of all aspects of quality.

Specifically, Networks should work closely with clinicians and units to review audit findings and recommendations and support them to take actions that improve clinical practice to deliver optimal patient care and outcomes. Networks should also provide (and facilitate access to) greater support for clinicians and units that are identified as negative outliers and consider how

individuals such as medical directors can be assisted during challenging episodes where services and individuals are the subject of high-profile scrutiny. Equally, networks should also support analysis to disseminate learning from those services that are working well and delivering better or optimal care and outcomes for their patients.

6. Role of National Clinical Leads

National Clinical Leads (NCLs) should be involved in prioritising and commissioning audits and communicate the importance of national clinical audit findings and the value to be gained from participating in them to the clinical community. NCLs should also provide leadership that encourages interest in national clinical audit data when there are limitations to the data that reduce its face value for some clinicians. They should also find ways to shift the perception of national clinical audit away from just being a tool to identify poor performance to a way to celebrate excellence as well.

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

DHCW is 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.

DHCW may also exercise such functions as the Welsh Ministers may direct in connection with the collection, analysis, use and dissemination of health service data.

8. 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, in which the health board is participating. 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.

- Work closely with, and evidence how, people with lived experience, or their representative bodies, have been engaged with to ensure the National Clinical Audit and Clinical Outcome Review Programme remains relevant to them, and reflects the quality-of-life outcomes that matter to them.
- Ensure there is a formally recognised process for reviewing the organisation's 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.

9. 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.

10. 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, then audit and quality improvement should be the first-line approach.

11. 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 2026/27 - 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	Managed by / Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme
National Joint Registry	Joints	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://www.njrcentre.org.uk/	enquiries@njrcentre.org.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Musculoskeletal (MSK) Conditions
Case Mix Programme (CMP), Intensive Care National Audit & Research Centre (ICNARC)	Intensive care	Intensive Care National Audit & Research Centre (ICNARC)	https://www.icnarc.org/	cmp@icnarc.org	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Critical Care Emergency Medicine and Trauma

ACUTE						
National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Managed by / Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme
National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA)*	Emergency Laparotomy	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://www.nela.org.uk/	NELA@rcoa.ac.uk	Yes	Strategic Clinical Network for Critical Care. Emergency Medicine and Trauma
	Non-Laparotomy		https://www.nela.org.uk/	NELA@rcoa.ac.uk	Yes	Strategic Clinical Network for Critical Care. Emergency Medicine and Trauma
National Major Trauma Registry (previously TARN)	Trauma	NHSE	https://www.england.nhs.uk/outcomes-and-registries-programme/nmtr	england.support.nmtr@nhs.net	Started in November 2024	Strategic Clinical Network for Critical Care. Emergency Medicine and Trauma

OLDER PEOPLE

National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Managed by / Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme
Falls and Fragility Fracture Audit Programme (FFFAP) *	Fracture Liaison Service Database (FLS-DB)	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://www.fffap.org.uk/fls/flsweb.nsf	FLSDB@rcp.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Musculoskeletal (MSK) Conditions
	National Audit of Inpatient Falls (NAIF)		https://www.fffap.org.uk/ffap/naifrep.nsf	falls@rcp.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Musculoskeletal (MSK) Conditions
	National Hip Fracture Database (NHFD)		https://www.nhfd.co.uk/	nhfd@rcp.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Musculoskeletal (MSK) Conditions
National Audit of Dementia *		Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/improving-care/ccqi/national-clinical-audits/national-audit-of-dementia	nad@rcpsych.ac.uk	Yes	Dementia Oversight of Implementation and Impact Group (or its successor)

OLDER PEOPLE						
National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Managed by / Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme
Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP) *		Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://www.strokeaudit.org/Home.aspx	ssnap@kcl.ac.uk	Yes	National Stroke Implementation Network

CANCER						
National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Managed by / Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme
National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre* natcan@rcseng.ac.uk	National Audit of Metastatic Breast Cancer	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://www.natcan.org.uk/audits/metastatic-breast/	breastcancer audits@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Cancer
	National Audit of Primary Breast Cancer		https://www.natcan.org.uk/audits/primary-breast/	breastcancer audits@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Cancer

CANCER						
National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Managed by / Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme
	National Bowel Cancer Audit (NBOCA)		https://www.nboca.org.uk/	nboca@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Cancer
	National Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audit (NOGCA)		https://www.nogca.org.uk/	OGcanceraudit@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Cancer
	National Lung Cancer Audit (NLCA)		https://www.lungcanceraudit.org.uk/	NLCA@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Cancer
	National Prostate Cancer Audit (NPCA)		https://www.npca.org.uk/	npca@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Cancer
	National Ovarian Cancer Audit		https://www.natcan.org.uk/audits/ovarian/	Ovariancanceraudit@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Cancer

CANCER						
National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Managed by / Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme
National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre*	National Pancreatic Cancer Audit	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://www.natcan.org.uk/audits/pancreatic/	Pancreaticcanceraudit@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Cancer
	National Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma Audit		https://www.natcan.org.uk/audits/non-hodgkin-lymphoma/	NHLaudit@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Cancer
	National Kidney Cancer Audit		https://www.natcan.org.uk/audits/kidney/	Kidneycanceraudit@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Cancer

LONG TERM CONDITIONS						
National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Managed by / Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme
Renal Registry (UK Kidney Association) #	Kidney Disease	UK Kidney Association	https://ukkidney.org/about-us/who-we-are/uk-renal-registry	renalregistry@renalregistry.nhs.uk	Yes	Welsh Kidney Network

LONG TERM CONDITIONS

National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Managed by / Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme
National Early Inflammatory Arthritis Audit (NEIAA) *#	Inflammatory Arthritis	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://arthritisaudit.org.uk/	audit@rheumatology.org.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Musculoskeletal (MSK) Conditions
National Paediatric Diabetes Audit (NPDA) *#	Paediatric Diabetes	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/work-we-do/clinical-audits/npda	npda@rcpch.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Diabetes National Strategic Clinical Network for Child Health
National Adult Diabetes Audit (NDA) *	National Diabetes Core Audit - Care Processes/ Treatment Targets - Complications & Mortality - Type 1 Diabetes - Learning Disability and Mental Health	NHSE	https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/clinical-audits-and-registries/national-diabetes-audit/core	diabetes@nhs.net	TBC	National Strategic Clinical Network for Diabetes

LONG TERM CONDITIONS

National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Managed by / Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme
	- Structured Education					
	Diabetes Prevention Programme (DPP) Audit		https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/clinical-audits-and-registries/national-diabetes-audit/core	diabetes@nhs.net	TBC	National Strategic Clinical Network for Diabetes
	National Diabetes Footcare Audit (NDFa)		https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/clinical-audits-and-registries/national-diabetes-foot-care-audit	ndfa@nhs.net	TBC	National Strategic Clinical Network for Diabetes
	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	TBC	National Strategic Clinical Network for Diabetes
	Gestational Diabetes Audit #		https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/clinical-audits-and-registries/gestational-diabetes-mellitus-audit	england.gdm1@nhs.net	TBC	National Strategic Clinical Network for Diabetes National Strategic Clinical Network for Maternity and Neonatal Services
	National Pregnancy in Diabetes		https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/clinical-audits-and-registries/national-pregnancy-in-diabetes-audit	npid@nhs.net	TBC	National Strategic Clinical Network for Diabetes

LONG TERM CONDITIONS

National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Managed by / Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme		
	Audit (NPID) #		registries/national-pregnancy-in-diabetes-audit			National Strategic Clinical Network for Maternity and Neonatal Services		
	NDA Integrated Specialist Survey		https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/clinical-audits-and-registries/nda-integrated-specialist-survey			diabetes@nhs.net	TBC	National Strategic Clinical Network for Diabetes
	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	TBC	National Strategic Clinical Network for Diabetes National Strategic Clinical Network for Child Health
National Respiratory Audit Programme (NRAP) *#	Adult Asthma Secondary Care	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://www.rcp.ac.uk/projects/adult-asthma-secondary-care-workstream	nrapinbox@rcp.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Respiratory Conditions		
	COPD Secondary Care		https://www.rcp.ac.uk/projects/copd-secondary-care-workstream			Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Respiratory Conditions	
	Paediatric Asthma Secondary Care		https://www.rcp.ac.uk/projects/children-and-young-people-s-asthma-secondary-care-workstream			Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Respiratory Conditions	

LONG TERM CONDITIONS

National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Managed by / Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme
						National Strategic Clinical Network for Child Health
	Pulmonary Rehabilitation		https://www.rcp.ac.uk/projects/pulmonary-rehabilitation-pr-workstream		Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Respiratory Conditions
	Wales Primary Care Audit		https://www.rcp.ac.uk/projects/primary-care-workstream		Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Respiratory Conditions Strategic Programme for Primary Care
Audiology Quality Standards #		Audiology Standing Specialist Advisory Group	Adults Audiology Quality Standards 2016	jane.deans@wales.nhs.uk ; sarah.theobald@wales.nhs.uk	Yes	ENT and Audiology Clinical Implementation Network – Planned care

END OF LIFE CARE					
National programme name	Managed by / Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme
National Audit of Care at the End of Life (NACEL) *	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://www.nhsbenchmarking.nhs.uk/nacel	Nhsbn.nacelsupport@nhs.net	Yes	National Programme for Palliative and End of Life Care

HEART						
National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Managed by / Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme
National Audit of Cardiac Rehabilitation	NACR	NCAP	http://www.cardiacrehabilitation.org.uk/	agem.nacr@nhs.net	Yes ^	National Strategic Clinical Network for Cardiovascular Conditions
National Vascular Registry (NVR)	Care Processes	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://www.vsqip.org.uk/	nvr@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes	
National Vascular Registry (NVR)	Vascular Devices	NHSE / DHCW Joint Data Controllers	https://www.vsqip.org.uk/	nvr@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes	Vascular Services Quality Improvement Programme

HEART						
National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Managed by / Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme
National Vascular Registry (NVR) *	NVR	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://www.vsqip.org.uk/	nvr@rcseng.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Cardiovascular Conditions
National Cardiac Audit Programme (NCAP) ^	Myocardial Ischaemia National Audit Project (MINAP)	Arden & Gem CSU	https://www.nicor.org.uk/	nicor.auditenquiries@nhs.net	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Cardiovascular Conditions
	National Adult Cardiac Surgery Audit	Arden & Gem CSU				National Strategic Clinical Network for Cardiovascular Conditions
	National Audit of Cardiac Rhythm Management (CRM)	Arden & Gem CSU				National Strategic Clinical Network for Cardiovascular Conditions
	National Audit of Percutaneous Coronary Interventions	Arden & Gem CSU				National Strategic Clinical Network for

HEART						
National programme name	Work stream / Topic name	Managed by / Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme
	(Coronary Angioplasty)					Cardiovascular Conditions
	National Congenital Heart Disease Audit (NCHDA) #	Arden & Gem CSU				National Strategic Clinical Network for Cardiovascular Conditions
	National Heart Failure Audit	Arden & Gem CSU				National Strategic Clinical Network for Cardiovascular Conditions
	National Audit of Mitral Valve Leaflet Repairs (MVLRL)	Arden & Gem CSU				National Strategic Clinical Network for Cardiovascular Conditions
	The UK Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) Registry	Arden & Gem CSU				National Strategic Clinical Network for Cardiovascular Conditions

MENTAL HEALTH					
National programme name	Managed by Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme
National Clinical Audit of Psychosis (NCAP) *	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/NCAP	NCAP@rcpsych.ac.uk	Yes	Strategic Programme for Mental Health

WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH					
National programme name	Managed by / Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme
National Clinical Audit of Seizures and Epilepsies for Children and Young People (Epilepsy12) *#	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/work-we-do/quality-improvement-patient-safety/epilepsy12-audit	epilepsy12@rcpch.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Neurological Conditions National Strategic Clinical Network for Child Health
National Maternity and Perinatal Audit (NMPA) *#	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://maternityaudit.org.uk/	nmpa@rcog.org.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Maternity and Neonatal Services
National Neonatal Audit Programme (NNAP) *	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/work-we-do/clinical-audits/nnap	nnap@rcpch.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Maternity and Neonatal Services

WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH					
National programme name	Managed by / Hosted by	Audit website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/ strategic programme
Paediatric Intensive Care Audit Network (PICANet) *#	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://www.picanet.org.uk/	picanet@leeds.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Child Health
Perinatal Mortality Review Tool (PMRT) #	DHSC	https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/pmrt	mbracele@npeu.ox.ac.uk	Yes	National Strategic Clinical Network for Maternity and Neonatal Services National Strategic Clinical Network for Women's Health

(* denotes part of NCAPOP), (# denotes reports likely to include information on children and / or maternity services), (^ National Cardiac Audit Programme (NCAP) will be transitioning to more frequent submissions and reporting throughout 2026/27)

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	Managed by / Hosted by	Programme website	Email	Collecting data in 2026/27	Network/Strategic programme
Child Health Clinical Outcome Review Programme *	Necrotising enterocolitis	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://www.ncepod.org.uk/	ncepod@nhs.net	Data collection to begin summer 2026	National Strategic Clinical Network for Child Health
	Stabilisation of the critically ill child				No, data collection closed 31/01/2026	National Strategic Clinical Network for Child Health
	Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis				No (Published 13/02/2025)	National Strategic Clinical Network for Child Health
	Testicular torsion				No (Published 08/02/2024)	National Strategic Clinical Network for Child Health
	Transition from child to adult health services				No (Published 08/06/2023)	National Strategic Clinical Network for Child Health

	Emergency Surgical Procedures				No (Published 11/12/2025)	National Strategic Clinical Network for Child Health
Maternal, Newborn and Infant Clinical Outcome Review Programme (MBRRACE) *#	MBRRACE	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/mbrance-uk	Mbrance-uk@npeu.ox.ac.uk	Yes	Clinical Network for Maternity and Neonatal Services
Medical and Surgical Clinical Outcome Review Programme (NCEPOD) *	Acute sigmoid volvulus	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	https://www.ncepod.org.uk/	ncepod@nhs.net	Data collection to begin summer 2026	
	Delirium				Yes, Data collection to begin winter 2026	
	Acute Illness in people with a learning disability				No, Data collection closed 30 March 2026	
	Pleural procedures				No, data collection closed 31 January 2026	
	Rib fractures				No, data collection closed 17 February 2026	
	Community Acquired Pneumonia				No (Published 14/12/2023)	
	Crohn's Disease				No (Published 13/07/2023)	National Strategic Clinical Network for Gastrointestinal Conditions
	End of Life Care				No (Published 14/11/2024)	National Programme for Palliative and End of Life Care
Endometriosis	No (Published 11/07/2024)	National Strategic Clinical Network for Women's Health				

	Epilepsy				No (Published 08/12/2022)	National Strategic Clinical Network for Neurological Conditions
	Rehabilitation following critical illness				No (published 12/06/2025)	Strategic Clinical Network for Critical Care
	Lower Limb Ischaemia				No (published 13/11/2025)	Strategic Clinical Network for Cardiovascular Conditions
Mental Health Clinical Outcome Review Programme * (National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH))	NCISH	Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP)	www.manchester.ac.uk/nncish/	nncish@manchester.ac.uk	Yes	Strategic Programme for Mental Health

(* denotes part of NCAPOP)

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