

Welsh Government National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review

Newsletter

October 2019

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Published reports

At the beginning of 2019, HQIP, the Welsh Government and NHS England have undertaken a different approach to the publication of reports. Welsh Government feel this has improved the approach and consistency of publication considerably. More reports are published on time with plenty of prior notice. We provide information regarding upcoming publication schedules on a monthly basis. If you do not receive these currently and wish to receive these, please let us know.

If you have any views on the new approach you would like us to relay to the audit providers, please contact us at wqclinicalaudit@gov.wales.

<u>Reports published in September 2019</u>	<u>Reports published in 10 October 2019</u>
National Maternity and Perinatal Audit (NMPA) clinical report 2019 https://www.hqip.org.uk/resource/national-maternity-and-perinatal-audit-nmpa-clinical-report-2019/#.XYZHbmxyY2w	Medical and Surgical Clinical Outcome Review Programme - MedSurg - Pulmonary Embolism https://www.hqip.org.uk/resource/medical-surgical-review-programme-pulmonary-embolism-report-2019/
National Paediatric Diabetes Audit Spotlight Reports https://www.hqip.org.uk/resource/national-paediatric-diabetes-audit-spotlight-reports/	MNI - Maternal, Newborn and Infant Clinical Outcome Review Programme - MNI - Perinatal Mortality Surveillance 2019 https://www.hqip.org.uk/resource/perinatal-mortality-surveillance-report-2019/#.XagXmmxYaUk
National Cardiac Audit Programme – Annual Report 2019 https://www.hqip.org.uk/resource/national-cardiac-audit-programme-annual-report-2019/#.XYZHXWxYY2w	NEIAA - National Early Inflammatory Arthritis Audit - Arthritis annual report https://www.hqip.org.uk/resource/national-early-inflammatory-arthritis-first-annual-report/

<p>National Ophthalmology Database Audit – Annual Report 2019 https://www.hqip.org.uk/resource/national-ophthalmology-database-audit-annual-report-2019/#.XYZHPWxYY2w</p>	<p>NDA - National Diabetes Audit - NPID annual report https://www.hqip.org.uk/resource/national-pregnancy-in-diabetes-audit-report-2018/#.XagX2WxYaUk</p>
<p>Mental Healthcare in Young People and Young Adults https://www.hqip.org.uk/resource/mental-healthcare-in-young-people-and-young-adults/#.XYZHTmxYY2w</p>	

Update from Policy lead for Cancer, Diabetes and Respiratory

Each newsletter we will be asking colleagues to provide an opinion piece on the importance of audit and provide examples of how audit is making a real difference in policy making and service provision throughout Wales.

Anthony Davies, Senior Policy Manager for cancer, respiratory, diabetes and endoscopy provides the following thoughts:

Clinical audit and national policy

Outcomes from modern day healthcare are less the result of an individual clinician's intervention and more the accumulating result of a series of interactions with many different clinicians, procedures and organisations that make up a clinical pathway. Modern healthcare systems are incredibly complex and developing quality improvement interventions at a national level needs to be based on robust evidence of how the health system is operating. We don't want to drive policy focus on an area of healthcare that doesn't require it, and more importantly, we don't want to miss focusing on an area that does require a focus.

To help guide national policy making, we try to use evidence as the foundation of good policy making. Studies and reports from other jurisdictions, timeframes and contexts can provide insight but aren't usually directly transferable. Real time, or near as possible, evidence from the very system that is the target of a national intervention is vital. Clinical audit is one of the most important tools at the disposal of a policy maker to guide where to focus. Measuring a health system against standards allows us to target inappropriate variation in order to help the health system to improve the quality of healthcare.

For instance, the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit consistently demonstrated poorer outcomes than should be expected and this led to the realisation that a national quality improvement programme should be developed. This may seem perfectly routine and logical, but in the context of resource pressures and the endless series of calls on national policy makers, it was fundamental to cutting through the competing claims for a funded, targeted, national intervention. Similarly, the national approach to diabetes care has been heavily informed by the results of

the National Diabetes Audit. It led to targeted action on insulin pump therapy, foot care and transition between paediatric and adult services. Similarly, a deterioration in key diabetes care processes has led to change in national focus over the past year and escalation between the Welsh Government and the NHS. In contrast, up until recently the absence of data for respiratory care has posed challenges for knowing what the national approach should focus on. The first audits of COPD in primary care demonstrated that a significant proportion of patients had spirometry results which aren't consistent with a diagnosis of COPD. This led directly to a national intervention, as part of the Respiratory Health Delivery Plan, to improve the quality of diagnostic spirometry and a quality improvement intervention to review patients with inconsistent results. This will have an important impact on patient outcomes, service capacity and the cost of prescribing.

Future arrangements for national plan and relationship between health boards and Welsh Government

A different approach has been agreed for interaction between clinical audit stakeholders in Wales. The National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review Advisory Committee has been stood down and replaced with the following approaches:

- A logistical meeting with clinical audit representatives and Welsh Government once every six months;
- The Welsh Government audit team will provide a regular newsletter to audit colleagues providing updates on interaction with the different stakeholders within the audit process, any specific areas of priority for the Welsh Government, how audit results and proformas are being taken forward, the approach to outliers as well as information regarding any upcoming reports. (Articles for the newsletter will also be encouraged from audit stakeholders from around Wales) This information within will echo information being provided to policy leads, Chief Executives and the Minister and will help align the national thinking and approach.
- Proposing a national clinical audit event, dependant on interest, bringing together those with a vested interest for audit. If you would like to be involved or have any ideas relating to this please get in touch.

The Annual National Clinical Audit Plan has previously been agreed by Welsh Government in conjunction with HQIP. In the absence of a National Advisory Committee, the draft plan will be circulated to health board clinical audit departments for consideration and comment.

Outlier process for Wales

HQIP published the detection and management of outliers for National Clinical Audits: Implementation guide for NCAPOP providers in October 2018:

<https://www.hqip.org.uk/resource/detection-and-management-of-outliers-for-national-clinical-audits/#.XahDJmxYaUk>

Once Welsh Government are notified of a negative outlier, the Welsh Government work with the relevant health board to understand the figures presented and request plans and actions to ensure improvements are made. The outliers are discussed and raised at relevant meetings, including Quality Delivery Board meetings.

Strengthening of future audit reports

The Clinical Audit team have been working with HQIP to develop new wording within future audit reports. Any new or renewed tender for audits will now include the following stipulations:

- Performance indicators and other measures that report a full cohort mean / median will report England-only and Wales-only figures.
- Where individual healthcare providers are benchmarked, English and Welsh providers will appear in a separate list or section of the table (even when English providers are not reported in lists by English region). This is to enable the Welsh Government and NHS Wales to easily locate, compare and action data for Wales.
- Recommendations will be checked for their applicability in Wales and be clear if applicable only one nation.

National Clinical Audit Awareness week

HQIP are promoting the National Clinical Awareness Week which will be held between the 25-29 November. Further information can be found on the HQIP webpage; <https://www.hqip.org.uk/clinical-audit-awareness-week-2019-promotional-toolkit/>

Audit heroes awards are now open to champion folk in a number of categories who do great things for the world of audit. Please consider nominating someone from Wales.

<https://www.hqip.org.uk/news-events/#.XahyQehKi70>

For any further information, please contact wgclinicalaudit@gov.wales.