

Clinical audit in England: achievements and challenges

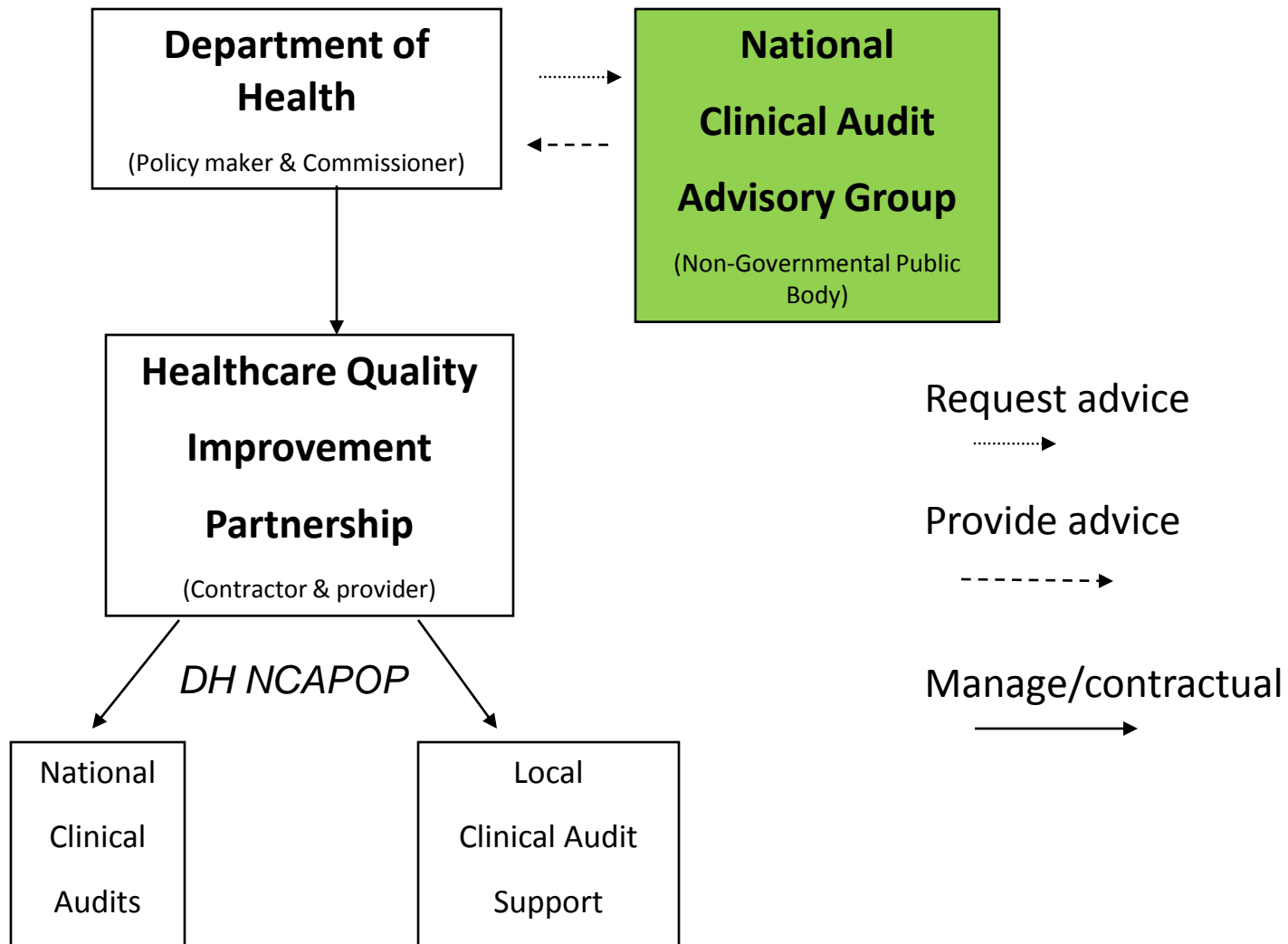
Nick Black

Chair

National Clinical Audit Advisory Group

3 November 2009

Roles and responsibilities



Outline

- Achievements: advice to DH
- Unfinished business...
- Policies NCAAG currently addressing
- Looking to the future

Achievements (1)

- Recommended criteria for selecting and prioritising topics for NCAs
- Recommended criteria for assessing tenders for new and renewal of NCAs
 - scope; methodology; data management; outputs; governance; cost
 - need for four key contributors
 - clinicians; methodologists; patients; IT

Achievements (2)

- Recommended a responsive funding scheme for new NCAs
 - resulted in 59 expressions of interest; 11 invitations to tender;
 - recommended 6 NCAs
 - Chronic pain
 - Heavy menstrual bleeding
 - Childhood epilepsy
 - Hip fracture
 - Schizophrenia (treatment resistant)
 - Inflammatory bowel disease

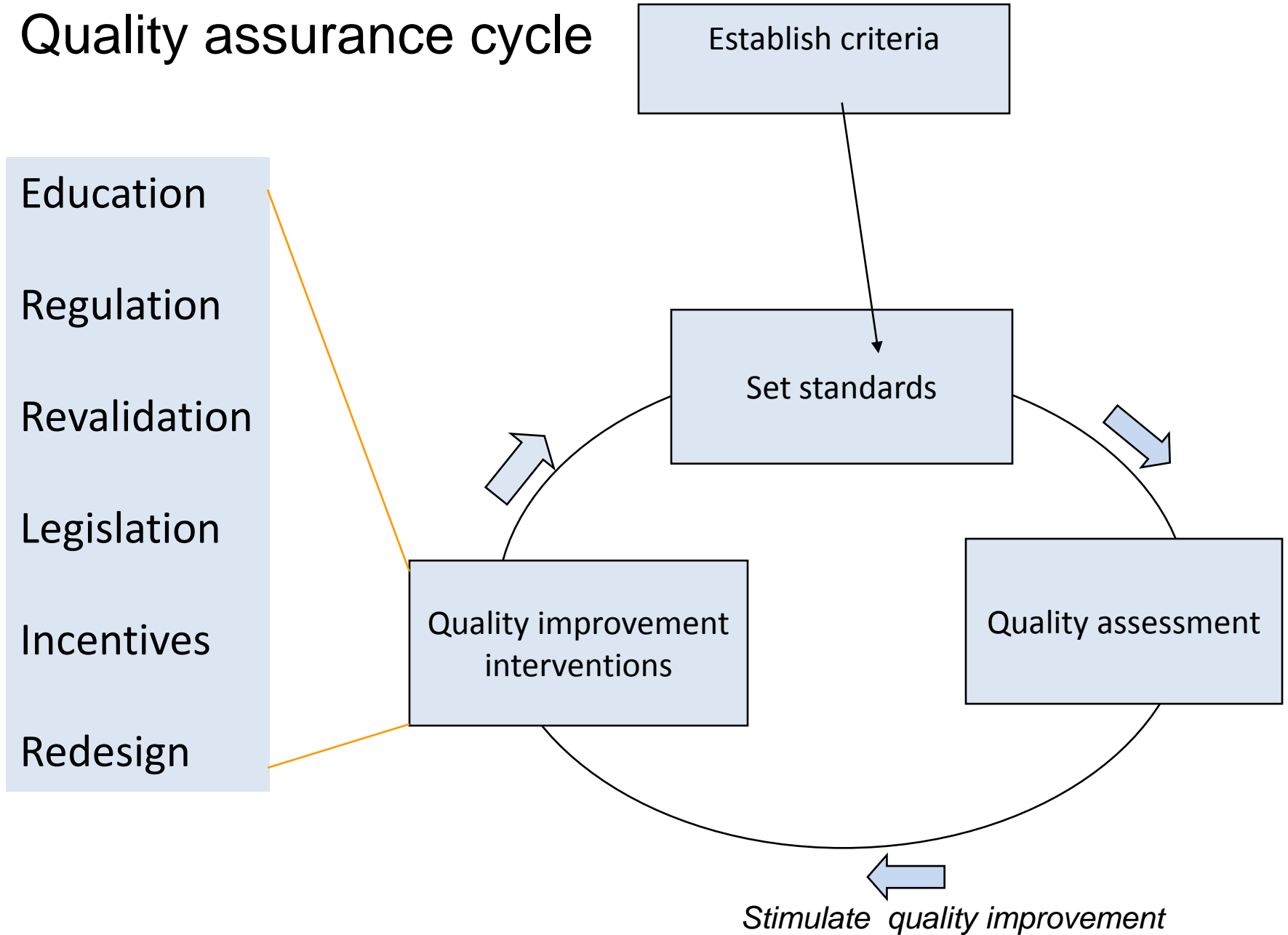
Achievements (3)

- Recommended two new NCAs be commissioned
 - Diabetes (to replace existing NDA)
 - Adults, focused on primary care
 - Children, focused on secondary care
 - Nutrition in elderly in-patients & social care residents
 - initial one year development project

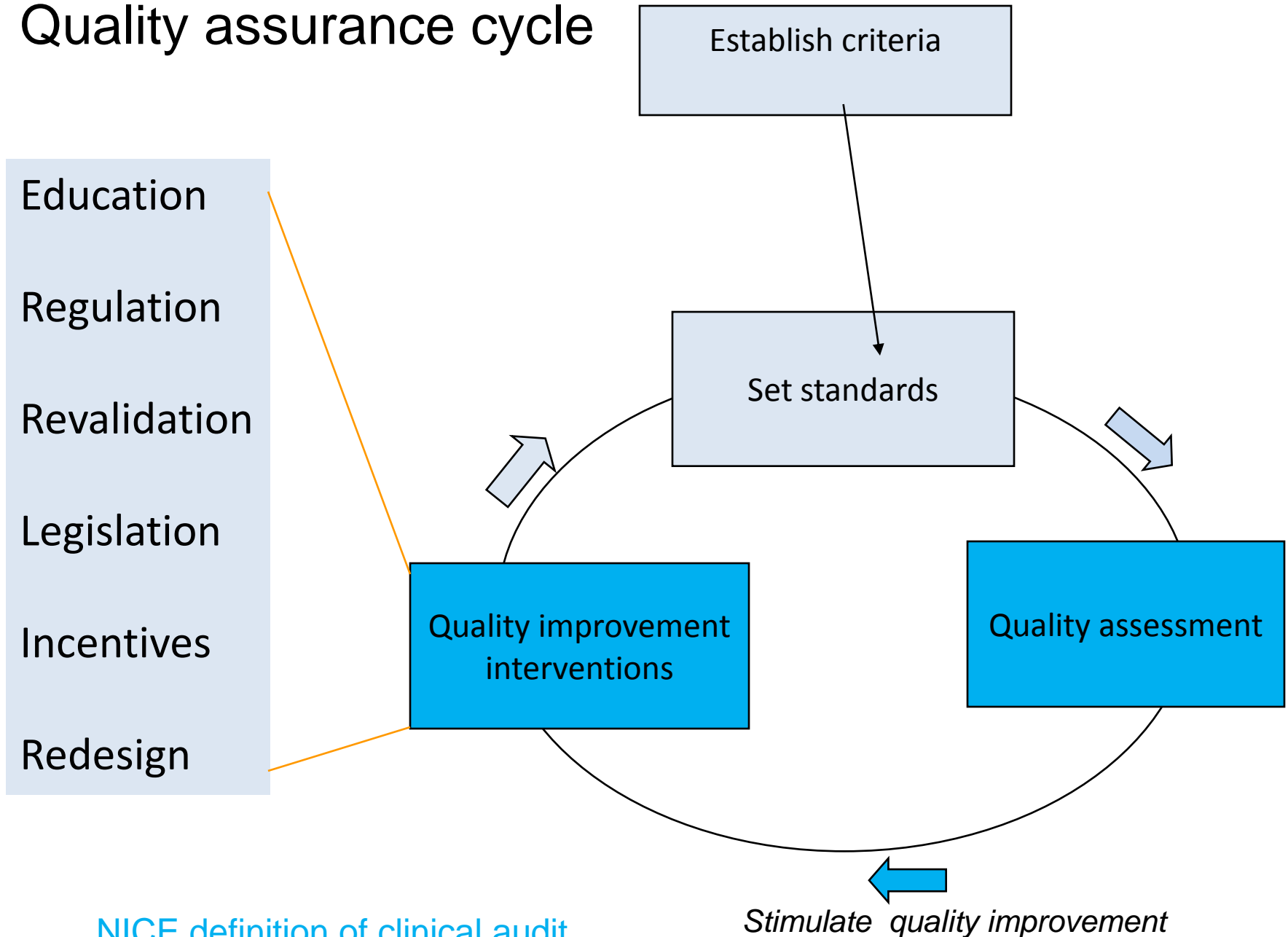
Unfinished business...

- NCAAG sought to strengthen position of clinical audit in new quality framework
 - Concern that existing definition (NICE 2002)
 - pre-dates many developments in quality assurance in NHS over past decade
 - focuses on process audit
 - requires involvement in improvement interventions
 - Need to ensure essential role and contribution of clinical audit is recognised

Quality assurance cycle



Quality assurance cycle



NICE definition of clinical audit

Quality Accounts

NSFs

NICE

Medical Education
England

Nursing &
Midwifery
Council

National Patient
Safety Agency

National
Clinical
Directors

Care Quality
Commission

NHS Litigation
Authority

Royal Colleges

NHS Trusts

NHS Evidence

ACCEA

National Institute for
Innovation & Improvement

General
Medical
Council

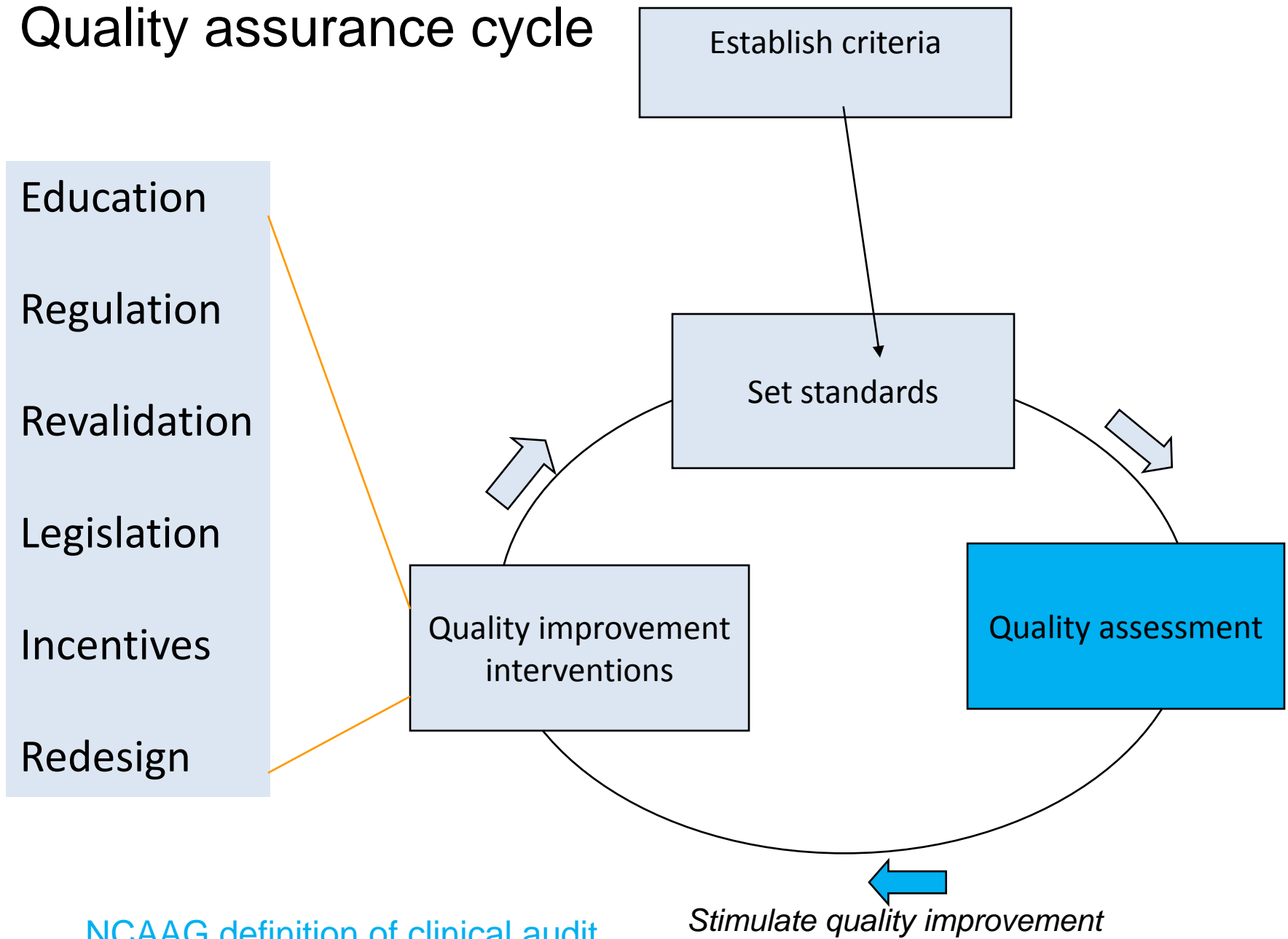
NHS Choices

NHS Commissioners

NHS Ombudsman

National Clinical
Assessment Service

Quality assurance cycle



NCAAG definition of clinical audit

Recommendation

- Recommend need for revision but...
- Local audit staff, most national clinical audit staff and HQIP opposed to any change, so...
- To avoid two definitions and risk damaging morale of audit staff...
- Continue for now with existing NICE definition but regard it as *permissive* rather than *prescriptive*

Policies NCAAG currently addressing

- Quality Accounts
 - criteria for inclusion of national clinical audits
- Use of accreditation
 - audit staff, Trust departments, national clinical audits, education
- Data ownership, data use and intellectual property rights of national clinical audits
 - historic data and new contracts
- Long-term support for DH-funded national clinical audits (NCAPOP) from April 2011

Looking to the future...

- Shift to primary care focus for audits of long-term conditions
 - new adult diabetes audit
- Encompass social care
 - new audit of nutrition in elderly
- Increase patient involvement in audits
 - Effectiveness of care
 - patient reported outcome measures (PROMs)
 - Humanity of care
 - patient reported experience measures (PREMs)

- Relate clinical audit (quantitative) to qualitative approaches to assessing quality

Patient
Opinion



[Day surgery nurses brilliant!](#)

21 hours ago

salford lee on Salford Royal Hospital (General surgery)

[Prescription service](#)

22 hours ago

tricky ted on NHS Rotherham (Continence service)

[Positive experience of colonoscopy at Treliske](#)

yesterday

Susikatz on Royal Cornwall Hospital (Treliske) (General surgery)

[Still waiting for an outpatient appointment](#)

yesterday

Rabbit on Nottingham NHS Treatment Centre, Nottingham NHS Treatment Centre (CT scans)

[Why I signed myself out of Southport Hospital](#)

2 days ago

Red Hot on Southport and Formby District General Hospital

Your story can change the NHS

[Tell](#) people what happened

[See](#) what others are saying

[Find out](#) how patients are changing the NHS

Concluding thoughts

- Encourage diversity, stimulate innovation, avoid unnecessary central control
- Financial challenges ahead
 - Need for making robust case for clinical audit to be seen as part of the solution not part of the problem
- Cultivate support from politicians, DH, clinical professions and the public
- Interest and expectations high
 - Exciting time to be involved in clinical audit