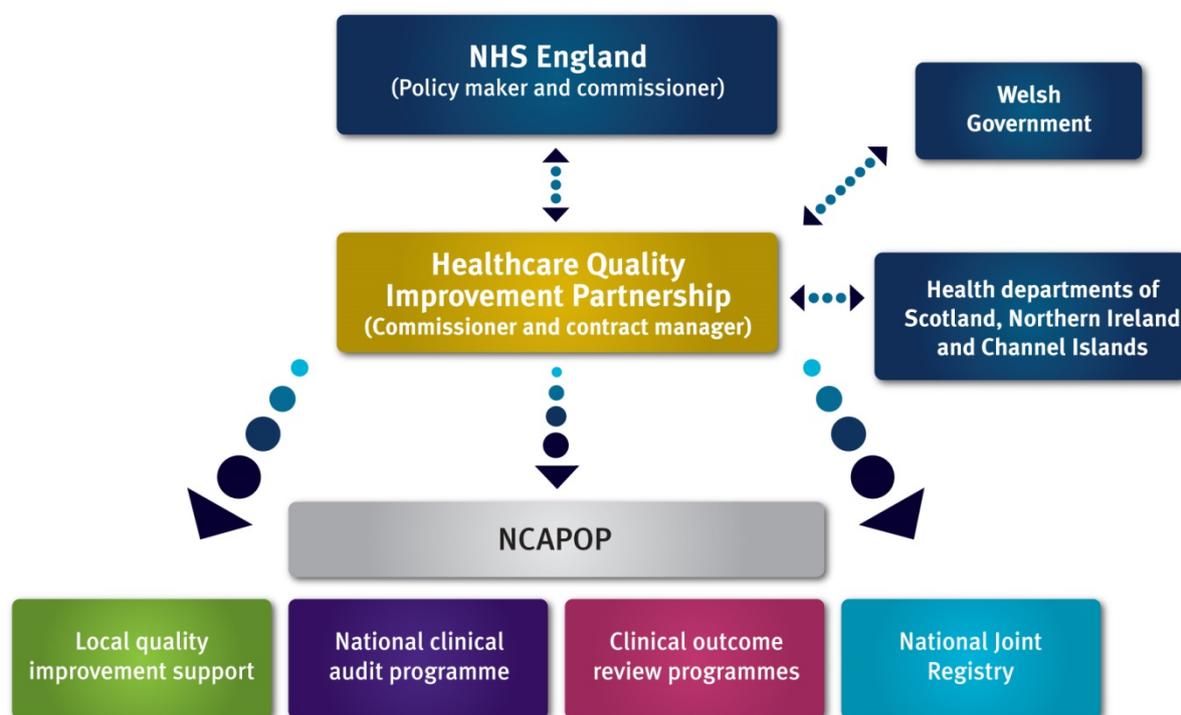


## About the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) and the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP)

**About this paper:** Following discussions with the YEARN clinical audit network group, and its requests for more information about HQIP, its work and the NCAPOP, this paper was created in January 2017. The content discussed and linked to in this paper can also be seen in the 'quick links' section of this page: [www.hqip.org.uk/national-programmes/](http://www.hqip.org.uk/national-programmes/)

**Who are HQIP?:** The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) is led by a consortium of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, Royal College of Nursing and National Voices. HQIP holds the contract to manage and develop the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP), comprising of around 40 clinical audits and outcome review programmes that cover care provided to people with a wide range of medical, surgical and mental health conditions. The programme is funded by NHS England, the Welsh Government and, with some individual audits, also funded by the Health Department of the Scottish Government, DHSSPS Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands. One of HQIP's aims is to promote quality improvement, and in particular to increase the impact that clinical audit has on healthcare quality in England and Wales.



Further information about the HQIP Board, the team, and the organisations that HQIP work with is available on the HQIP website at <http://www.hqip.org.uk/about-us/>.

### What is the NCAPOP programme?

The National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP) is a programme of approximately 40 national audits and other quality improvement projects such as clinical outcome review programmes and registries. The programme covers a variety of clinical areas including acute care, cancer, children and women's health, heart, long-term conditions, mental health, and older people. Details of each project commissioned by HQIP are available on the HQIP website at: <http://www.hqip.org.uk/national-programmes/>.

## What do HQIP do?

Each project in the NCAPOP is delivered under contract to HQIP, and procurement is undertaken in keeping with best practice for the public sector. HQIP is responsible for managing the full commissioning cycle for the NCAPOP programme. This involves working with the funding bodies and their advisors to develop the commissioning brief and scope for each project (both new topics and re-commissioned topics), and then managing the procurement and the subsequent contractual performance.

In addition, HQIP:

- Delivers the contract for the National Joint Registry
- Ensures patients and carers remain at the heart of our work through continued, strategic involvement in all relevant processes and projects. Further information about how HQIP is committed to involving patients in its work is available on the HQIP website at: <http://www.hqip.org.uk/involving-patients/>.
- Works to inform and influence national healthcare policy by effectively communicating its work and that of its partners
- Supports initiatives to maximise the utility of NCAPOP data for use by regulatory organisations such as the Care Quality Commission and for research and service improvement by third parties
- Supports healthcare professionals to review and improve their practice by providing opportunities to share best practice, through educational resources
- Manages the Clinical Outcomes Publication (COP) Programme on behalf of NHS England, to publish quality measures at the level of individual consultant, team and unit level using national clinical audit and administrative data.



**Our vision:** enabling those who commission, deliver and receive healthcare to measure and improve services

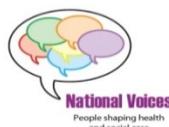


**Our values:** independent, working in partnership with patients and health professionals to improve practice



**Our history:** established in 2008, governed by the AoMRC, National Voices and RCN

ACADEMY OF  
MEDICAL ROYAL  
COLLEGES



Royal College  
of Nursing

## **How are projects selected for inclusion within the NCAPOP?**

Projects are selected for inclusion in the NCAPOP based upon on a number of factors which include:

- Alignment with overall NHS England and Welsh Government priorities
- Impact and value for money
- Need
- Professional and patient/carer support
- Alignment with other national activities (where appropriate).

The NHS England Eligibility Criteria used to date for the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP) are available on the HQIP website at <http://www.hqip.org.uk/media/Policies-and-admin-docs/NCAPOP-Eligibility-Criteria-11-April-2014.pdf>. These are currently under review.

## **How does HQIP commission projects?**

HQIP holds Specification Development Meetings (SDM) to support the development of high quality service specifications against which tender returns can be invited. The discussion centres on key features for the proposed future programme as well as implications and risks associated with those features. An SDM is divided into two parts; the first includes representation from the funding body, key professional stakeholders (such as a representative from NQICAN) and those who have specific expertise related to the programme, patient representatives, and experts who have experience delivering the programme. The second part of the meeting is open only to those with a formal role in commissioning the project, and during that half of the meeting, the core elements for the programme specification discussed during the first stage of the meeting are agreed.

Once a specification has been developed and agreed with the funding bodies, HQIP commences a formal tendering process and welcomes tenders from potential bidders. The tender evaluation panel includes representatives from the funding bodies (such as the NHS England National Clinical Director and the Welsh policy lead), HQIP, invited experts and, more recently, Patient and Public Involvement (PPI).

## **How does HQIP consider the burden of data collection placed upon local trusts as part of its commissioning activities?**

All projects within the NCAPOP place a burden on local audit and trust teams responsible for collecting and submitting data. An expectation that all projects will be designed and delivered in ways that minimise this burden is a key feature of all NCAPOP contracts, and is specifically reviewed during the tendering process. HQIP also requires that all projects regularly review their datasets to ensure that the minimum dataset is agreed to meet the needs of the audit. Where projects can make use of existing data collections they must do so and HQIP supports and facilitates data sharing and linkage activities. HQIP also supports the National Quality Improvement and Clinical Audit Network (NQICAN) which represents NHS staff who work on clinical audit and quality improvement projects. NQICAN representation is invited to attend all HQIP specification development meetings. Further information about NQICAN is available at: <http://www.nqican.org.uk/>.

### **How does HQIP involve patients in its activities?**

PPI is an integral part of what we do at HQIP. HQIP involves PPI representatives in its commissioning activities and literature development. All NCAPOP projects are required to include PPI representative(s) in their governance arrangements. HQIP hosts a Service User Network, who act as an advisory body to HQIP. HQIP also has a dedicated PPI lead, Kim Rezel. Further information on how HQIP involves patients and how you can engage with our activities is available at: <http://www.hqip.org.uk/involving-patients/>.

### **What projects are HQIP currently tendering?**

HQIP contracts usually run for between 3 and 5 years. If it is agreed that an audit will be re-commissioned, HQIP will aim to begin this process 12 months prior to the end of the contract. At any given time, HQIP may commission new projects as well as re-commission existing projects. Information outlining HQIP's planned commissioning activity for the coming months is available on the HQIP website at <http://www.hqip.org.uk/tenders/>.

### **What are trust requirements in relation to national clinical audit?**

As part of their NHS Standard Contract, all trusts are required to participate in NCAPOP projects including the collection and submission of data to audits for which they are eligible. Trusts are required to publish a Quality Account each year on the quality of the services that they provide. Within this Quality Account there is a section that relates to National Clinical Audit. Further information about Quality Accounts and Trust requirements are available on the HQIP website at: <http://www.hqip.org.uk/national-programmes/quality-accounts/>.

### **What is the NHS England Quality Accounts List?**

Each year, HQIP supports NHS England in compiling its Quality Accounts List. The List details the national clinical audits and other quality improvement projects that NHS England would like trusts to prioritise during a financial year. Further information on the NHS E Quality Accounts List including the inclusion criteria is available on the HQIP website at: <http://www.hqip.org.uk/national-programmes/quality-accounts/>.

### **What is the HQIP National Clinical Audit and Enquiries Directory?**

HQIP maintains a Directory of useful information on all known national clinical audits as well as other quality improvement projects. This includes contact details for the audits, links to recent publications, planned data collection periods and inclusion and exclusion criteria. The Directory is regularly updated and is available on the HQIP website at <http://www.hqip.org.uk/national-programmes/national-clinical-audits-and-enquiries-directory/>.

### **When do NCAPOP projects plan to publish their reports?**

All NCAPOP reports are published on the audit supplier and the HQIP websites. HQIP publishes a six-month forward view of the planned future publications. This is listed on the HQIP website at: <http://www.hqip.org.uk/resources/ncapop-publication-schedule/>. The National Clinical Audit and Enquiries Directory also lists the proposed future publication dates for audits.

### **How do I access NCAPOP data?**

HQIP is committed to making data collected by the NCAPOP projects publically available. Data from these projects is routinely reported and these reports are available on each audit or clinical outcome review programme provider website, as well as the HQIP website. The reported data is also placed on the [data.gov.uk website](https://data.gov.uk). Other NCAPOP project to outcome data is also available on the [MyNHS](#) and [NHS Choices](#) websites.

HQIP, as Data Controller, can share some data for the purpose of quality improvement, including research, service evaluation, and audit, if certain conditions are met. Further information on how to access NCAPOP data is available on the HQIP webpage at: [www.hqip.org.uk/data-access-requests/](http://www.hqip.org.uk/data-access-requests/).

### **If I have queries about a specific audit or clinical outcome review programme, who should I contact?**

In the first instance, you should contact the audit provider directly. The National Clinical Audit and Enquiries Directory includes the contact details of all national audit and QI projects providers known to HQIP. It is available on HQIP's website at <http://www.hqip.org.uk/national-programmes/national-clinical-audits-and-enquiries-directory/>.

HQIP has a named project manager responsible for each NCAPOP project and their contact details are listed on the project section of the HQIP website. HQIP also maintains a central email address for general queries which is available at [communications@hqip.org.uk](mailto:communications@hqip.org.uk).