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Identify if there is a National Clinical Audit in your area of interest

- First, find out if there is a National Clinical Audit in your area of interest. There are over 40 National Clinical Audits which cover the care of patients with a wide range of medical, surgical and mental health conditions.
- The HQIP [Directory](#) is a document which contains information on all the National Clinical Audits (and Clinical Outcome Review Programmes) that are running, or plan to run.

2

Collect data for the National Clinical Audit

- Collecting data for the National Clinical Audits gives you hands-on experience of the audit process and the opportunity to contribute to a national project. This will improve your understanding of audit standards, key national metrics and give you the opportunity to present your local results.
- Collecting data usually requires a username and password for the online platform. To find out how to get involved with data collection, ask your local audit/Quality Improvement (QI) team, or service clinical lead.

3

Review national audit performance data

- Many of the audits have national audit performance data freely available on the [National Clinical Audit Benchmarking](#) website. This website allows you to view benchmarked audit data searchable by speciality, Trust, hospital or unit, compared to national aggregates and standards.

4

Access National Clinical Audit data

- For most National Clinical Audits, data should be being continuously entered locally, in near real-time, to National Clinical Audit portals. Generally, the audits will produce standardized data reports for each trust.
- This data will summarise the performance of your trust against key audit metrics and could be used as a baseline or even to support continuous measurement in QI projects.
- Accessing National Clinical Audit data platforms usually requires a username and password. To find out how to register for access, check the audit website or ask your local audit/ QI team, or service clinical lead. This process can take time so remember to do this as early as possible!

5

Read the National Clinical Audit reports

- Every audit produces a national report, usually annually. These summarize the quality of care on a national level and make recommendations for improvement in care. Reading these reports help identify the metrics used nationally and can identify potential areas for local audits or QI projects.
- These reports will be published on the HQIP [website](#) and on each audit providers website.

6

Use the National Clinical Audit resources

- Most of the National Clinical Audit providers produce resources to support the use of audit data for QI. These include 'how to' videos, ready-made slide decks, QI case studies and much more. This [document](#) summarises and links to all the publically available resources across the programmes.

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Share your work

- Whether you have collected National Clinical Audit data or used the data to support QI, it is important to share your work. Look for opportunities to present work at departmental or trust-level meetings, as well as regional and national conferences.
- HQIP are keen to highlight how trainees are engaging with National Clinical Audits. Sharing a case study is a great way to disseminate your findings nationally. If you have a case study you'd like to share then please submit it [here](#).
- For more information about the National Clinical Audits and how you can engage with these, see HQIP's e-learning page designed for trainee doctors [here](#).