



# Clinical Audit Heroes Awards: Case Study

## WINNER: Future-proofing Healthcare 2022



### The Sustainable Respiratory Care Audit team at Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

The team was recognised for their work improving care for individual patients while also reducing the environmental impacts of healthcare. Their nomination detailed how the project provided a structure for the audit of patients' techniques, preferences and knowledge about inhalers, and the need for a clinical review – interventions that can reduce the carbon footprint of healthcare while improving the quality of care.

**“This is an important project that is taking into account improvements in patients care, as well as care for the environment, and reduces costs to the NHS”**

*Clinical Audit Heroes Award Judges*

## Respiratory care: A simple Sustainability Audit rolled out across the UK

From: Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, with involvement from multiple others around the country.

- Designed to support respiratory clinical teams and respiratory patients to identify opportunities to improve inhaler technique and inhaler prescribing to benefit patients and the planet.
- The project began in August 2021, and data have been collected. Projected availability from the end of 2022.
- The aim was to engage clinicians to work with individual respiratory patients to collect information about the extent to which inhaler guidelines were being adhered to, and thus identify opportunities for improvement in service delivery and patients' care. The focus on inhaler prescriptions and technique was chosen because of the opportunity both for significant improvements in clinical care and outcomes (including avoidance of hospital admissions through appropriate self-care with inhalers) and for reduction in the carbon emissions associated with respiratory care.





## Summary

The project ideas and audit proforma was developed at Newcastle hospitals. The survey was piloted and revised, and then an audit of 20 patients was completed. There were clear areas where improvements could be made in clinical care and it was felt that it would be beneficial to collect a national picture.

Clinicians from other hospitals were invited to join the project group, refine the audit data collection proforma and use it to carry out the audit in their own hospitals. A decision was made initially to focus on secondary care for adult patients, although many paediatric and primary care practitioners expressed interest.

Data has been submitted to the small team who are carrying out the analysis and will provide results, allowing different hospital teams to compare their results.

## Impact and learning

The project has been successful in that it has modelled a new approach to audit. It is efficient in the use of clinicians' time, as an audit tool is refined and clinicians then have access to a tool that has been through multiple revisions and is well tailored to collect useful and usable information.

An audit that has potential to guide improvement that may be beneficial for health as well as for the sustainability of health services has proved of interest to clinicians across the country.

Further information:

<https://networks.sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/networks/education-sustainable-healthcare/simple-sustainability-audit-respiratory-care>

Note that this information has been provided by the team, and HQIP is not responsible for any omissions or errors.

## Future-proofing Healthcare Hero

The Future-proofing Healthcare Hero Award recognises clinical audits that are planning for or supporting practice in the future and was one of five categories in 2022's Clinical Audit Heroes Awards.

The awards are an opportunity to recognise, share and learn from the work taking place to improve the quality of healthcare for patients and users of services; and are the highlight of Clinical Audit Awareness Week (CAAW).

More details about awards and the winners can be found on our website:

[www.hqip.org.uk/clinical-audit-heroes-award-2022](http://www.hqip.org.uk/clinical-audit-heroes-award-2022)

Find out more about CAAW on our website:

[www.https://www.hqip.org.uk/clinical-audit-awareness-week/](https://www.hqip.org.uk/clinical-audit-awareness-week/)