

The National Audit of Care at the End of Life is a three-year project, commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) as part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP). The audit focuses on the quality and outcomes of care experienced by those in their last admission in acute, community and mental health hospitals throughout England and Wales.

Outputs from this project will be of interest to those who receive, deliver and commission care, so will have a far-reaching audience. The data collection is for providers of care only.

There is no cost for participating organisations in England and Wales to participate in the audit.

NACEL is on NHS England's Quality Accounts list for 2018/19. For further information about the statutory function of this list please refer to HQIP's Guidance on Quality Accounts.

The scope of the NACEL over the three-year period will include the following elements:

- A **case note review** of inpatients in hospital in the last few days and hours of life (acute and community hospital providers only)
- An **organisational level audit** covering service models, activity, workforce, training, quality and outcomes
- The development and administration of an innovative **quality survey**
- The development and administration of a **Staff Reported Measure**, and
- Topics for periodic, time-limited **'spotlight' audits**

“Our focus at the Network is delivering user-friendly outputs to help participants improve the quality of services for patients and carers. We are delighted to have this opportunity to bring our tried and tested benchmarking and improvement methodologies to the NACEL.”

**Claire Holditch, NHSBN Director**



The NHS Benchmarking Network is the in-house benchmarking service of the NHS. Through an active membership spanning the four UK home countries, and covering 70% of NHS organisations, we deliver unique intelligence on NHS service provision. The Network projects are a key source of timely, accurate and informative comparative data for strategic planning and service improvement programmes.

NACEL includes three elements for 2018/19:

- There will be an **organisational level audit**, which will collate data on activity, workforce, service models, the impact of the care delivered and quality and outcomes. The online data collection tool will be open from June to October 2018.
- A **case note review** which will include all people who have died during the month of April 2018. The data specification has been reviewed to ensure that data burden on participating organisations is minimised. There may be scope for smaller sites to submit case notes over a longer time period. Data collection will be from June to October 2018. Mental Health providers will not be expected to participate in this audit element.
- NEW for the 2018 audit is the development of a **NACEL quality survey**, which will be linked to the case note review. This will be used to survey the quality of care at the end of life in hospital. Data collection will be from June to October 2018.

Participants will receive their individual site results benchmarked against nationally reported positions.

Organisations are encouraged to participate in NACEL as this will enable them to improve the quality and outcomes of care for people during their last admission leading to death.

---

“ We need to work hard to constantly improve the experience of people at the end of their lives, as well as those who matter the most to them. I would strongly encourage all trusts to participate.”

**Professor Bee Wee, National Clinical Director for End of Life Care**

---

The NACEL will be an independent piece of work, but will also build on previous audits, with services being assessed against the Leadership Alliance for the Care of Dying People's Five Priorities of Care, CQC domains and NICE national guidance and quality standards. Both carer and staff views will be included in the audit for the first time. More information can be found on the Key Resources page of the [NACEL webpage](#).

NACEL is led by NHSBN, supported by the Joint Clinical Leads, Suzanne Kite and Elizabeth Rees. The project has a Steering Group of 20 members from a wide spectrum of stakeholder organisations, as well as a 31-person strong Advisory Group to assist the Steering Group with specific areas of the NACEL design, development and delivery.

---

### About HQIP, the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme

The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) is led by a consortium of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, the Royal College of Nursing and National Voices. Its aim is to promote quality improvement, and in particular to increase the impact that clinical audit has on healthcare quality in England and Wales. HQIP holds the contract to manage and develop the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP), comprising more than 30 clinical audits and outcome review programmes which 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 Departments of Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands.

### About NHS Benchmarking Network

The NHS Benchmarking Network is the in-house benchmarking service of the NHS promoting service improvement through benchmarking and sharing good practice. We are a member led organisation, with all subscription fees funding the benchmarking work programme.



## Contact Us

For further information contact - [nhsbn.nacelsupport@nhs.net](mailto:nhsbn.nacelsupport@nhs.net)

Website - <https://www.nhsbenchmarking.nhs.uk/nacel>

Twitter - [@NACELUK](#)

