



National Audit of Care at the End of Life (NACEL)

Scope and timescales

1. Introduction

The NHS Benchmarking Network has been commissioned by HQIP to provide the National Audit of Care at the End of Life (NACEL). Three cycles of the audit have been commissioned to be undertaken over three consecutive years, 2019/20 will be the second round of data collection. The aim of the audit is to improve the quality of care of people at the end of their life. The NACEL covers NHS funded care in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

1.1 Audit objectives for second round of the NACEL

- To refine the tools for assessing compliance with national guidance on care at the end of life – One Chance To Get It Right, NICE clinical guidelines and the NICE Quality Standards for end of life care.
- To measure the experience of care at the end of life for dying people and those important to them.
- To provide audit outputs which enable stakeholders to identify areas for service improvement.
- To provide a strategic overview of progress with the provision of high-quality care at the end of life in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

2. Scope

The NHS Benchmarking Network NACEL support team have sought feedback from participants, the NACEL Steering Group, Advisory Group, HQIP and funders regarding ways to improve and streamline the audit for round two. Feedback has been taken on board regarding the size of the audit, and resource pressures, and has resulted in a reduction of the data requirements for the second round to ensure the audit provides the most value to participants.

The scope of round two is as follows:

a) Organisational level audit

Significantly reduced data specification to focus on Specialist Palliative Care workforce and availability. Removal of Trust/UHB collection.

b) Case Note Review

Data specification reduced by 75%.

Focus on recognition of death and individual plan of care.

Improved clarity / refined questions to ensure answers are reflective of care.

As in 2018, deaths which are classed as "sudden deaths" are excluded.

40 case note reviews submitted per submission (reduced from 80).

Acute providers: 20 deaths audited from the first two weeks in April and 20 deaths audited from the first two weeks in May.

Community hospital providers: 40 deaths audited from the whole of April and May.

c) Quality Survey

Aim to increase the take up of the Quality Survey.

The Quality Survey will not be linked to the case note review, so organisations can send this without completing reviews of the case notes first.

Organisations will be asked to send a quality survey to all deaths which occur within April and May (excluding deaths within A&E and deaths which occur within 4 hours on admission).



All Trusts are encouraged to engage with the Quality Survey as National Survey of Bereaved People (VOICES) will not be running for deaths in April and May 2019.

d) Staff reported measure

To be developed in year two and will focus on gathering staff views on caring for people at the end of their life.

e) Periodic, time limited, topic specific ‘spotlight’ audits.

In addition, during the first two years of the NACEL, a feasibility study will be carried out to assess a rollout of the audit to community settings.

3. Outputs

A national summary report will be produced for England and Wales and a separate report for Northern Ireland. Participating organisations will have access to an online benchmarking toolkit and receive a dashboard report, highlighting their positions on key metrics against the nationally reported positions.

4. Timescales

The below table shows the audit elements to be completed for each acute and community hospital. Data collection will open 3rd June 2019 and run until 11th October 2019.

Round 2 NACEL	Organisational level audit	Case note review	Quality Survey
Acute providers	Collecting hospital/ site data for 2018/19 Focus on: Specialist Palliative Care End of Life Care training	Deaths audited: First 2 weeks in April 2019 (excluding sudden deaths) First 2 weeks in May 2019 (excluding sudden deaths) Sample size Up to 20 Case Note Reviews per time period	Deaths audited: All deaths in April-May 2019 (excluding deaths within A&E and within 4 hours of admission) Sample size No maximum
Community hospital providers	Collecting hospital/ site data for the 2018/19 outturn. Focus on: Specialist Palliative Care End of Life Care training	Deaths audited: April 2019 (excluding sudden deaths) May 2019 (excluding sudden deaths) Sample size Up to 20 Case Note Reviews per time period	Deaths audited: All deaths in April-May 2019 (excluding deaths within A&E and within 4 hours of admission) Sample size No maximum

5. Participation

The data collection is for NHS providers of care only, focusing on the quality of care at the end of life experienced by adults in their last admission in **acute and community hospitals** throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Mental Health organisations will not be asked to submit data during round 2.



6. Registration for year two

Registration is now open for NACEL via the [members' area](#).

Organisations are asked to register individual submissions for each acute and community hospital within their Trust/ UHB. If you wish to combine any of these hospitals into one submission, you may do so, however it will mean that there is only one report for the combined sites. For example, organisations with multiple community hospitals may proceed to combine sites into one overall submission. Yet, if you wish to receive a report for each individual hospital, we ask that you register them separately.

7. Year two preparation

It is advised that Trusts/UHBs complete the following:

- Review the NACEL Information Governance guidance for Trusts/UHBs.
- Check the organisation's Fair Processing Notices cover the potential use of carer data to send clinical surveys.
- Explore how to collect the name(s) and address(es) of the nominated person(s) for all deaths occurring in April 2019 and May 2019, to contact them to ask about their experience of care whilst in hospital. We understand that practice varies across organisations, so you might like to find out where this information is currently held in your organisation. This may involve contacting your organisation's bereavement office for assistance.

8. Quality Accounts

The NACEL is on NHS England's [Quality Accounts list for 2019/20](#). For further information about the statutory function of this list please refer to [HQIP's Guidance on Quality Accounts](#).

9. Further information

Supporting documentation for year two is available on the [NACEL webpages](#).

The NHS Benchmarking Network NACEL support team can be contacted by email nhsbn.nacelsupport@nhs.net or by calling 0161 266 2214.