Dear Chief Executive / End of Life Care Lead,

**NATIONAL AUDIT OF CARE AT THE END OF LIFE (NACEL) 2018**

We are writing to inform you that there will be a National Audit of Care at the End of Life (NACEL) in 2018. This follows on from ‘End of Life Care Audit: Dying in Hospital’ which last reported in March 2016.

NACEL will focus on progress against achieving the Five Priorities for Care as outlined in ‘One Chance to Get it Right’, on progress against the NICE Quality Standards, and the CQC domains. It will also consider whether progress on key measures as outlined in the previous iteration of the audit has been made. The audit is being led by the NHS Benchmarking Network, commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) on behalf of NHS England, to deliver the audit. The audit is supported by a multi-disciplinary Steering Group.

The audit’s scope has extended since the last iteration, and is now auditing care in acute hospitals, in mental health inpatient facilities and in community hospitals. Hospices are excluded from the scope of this audit. The audit covers NHS funded care in England and Wales. All patients aged 18+ that die during April 2018 will be included in the audit (that meet the inclusion criteria – further guidance will follow). NACEL includes three elements this year: -

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. **NEW** for the 2018 audit is the development of a **carer reported measure**, 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 August 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.

A further briefing and expression of interest is attached to this e-mail. Please forward to the relevant End of Life Care and Clinical Audit Lead within your organisation to enable them to register your organisation’s interest in participating. Registration for NACEL will open mid-February 2018.

If you have any queries about the content of this letter, or about NACEL, please contact the NACEL Support Team or by telephone 0161 266 2313.

Thank you in advance for your participation in the National Audit of Care at the End of Life 2018.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Rees  
NACEL Joint Clinical Lead

Dr Suzanne Kite  
NACEL Joint Clinical Lead

Claire Holditch  
NACEL Director

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