

**This is an updated project description as the objectives needed to be adjusted during project scoping*

What is the challenge your project is going to address and how does it connect to the theme of 'How can improvement be used to reduce delays accessing health and care services'?

National Clinical Audits (NCA) provide rich insights into the functioning of clinical care processes and patient outcomes, with and across organisational boundaries.

Already the subject of previous reviews, the impact of unit/ clinical service quality improvement plans in response to NCAs can be maximised through;

- effective framing of the recommendations for local action
- supporting effective collaboration of teams across patient pathways for whole pathway improvement
- timely sharing of NCA intelligence, and increased frequency of data
- shared learning and collaborative development of improvement plans

Less is known about QI activity at an ICS/ system level, including:

- Consensus of what 'good' / maturity of arrangements looks like e.g. good practice models/templates to support the collaborative exploration of insights and development of improvement plans
- The barriers and enablers to optimal use of National Clinical Audit data to drive quality improvement by ICBs aligned with their role in supporting:
 - Quality assurance
 - Promotion of quality improvement activities across the ICS
 - The setting of priorities for improvement ICS-wide
- The usefulness of a lack of aggregated NCA data reports, bespoke to each ICS footprint

What does your project aim to achieve?

This project aims to:

- identify and prioritise the barriers and enablers to optimal use of National Clinical Audit data for quality improvement by ICBs. (These might include factors such as data access, presentation and/or interoperability,
- identify recommendations for action by:
 - ICB leaders
 - Teams within NHS provider organisations
 - HQIP and National Clinical Audit Providers
- summarise the National Clinical Audit QI landscape, and progress to date in supporting QI activity at ICS level
- signpost similar, complementary work by varied organisations that have been identified during scoping

How will the project be delivered?

Initial scoping / compilation of existing work completed and/or underway relating to the promotion of QI activity at ICB level, and across provider organisations. This will include work by HQIP, national audit providers and academics, researchers and other charitable organisations.

A qualitative review within South Yorkshire ICS will seek to understand the existing quality review processes and the aspirations, enablers and barriers in relation to the use of NCA for quality improvement.

This is expected to involve a combination of semi-structured interviews with either individuals or small groups including:

- 1) ICB leaders / quality leads
- 2) departmental heads of clinical effectiveness / QI in the ICS member organisations of the ICS
- 3) clinical teams aligned to one/two National Audits

A thematic review of feedback from the interviews will be combined with learning from the wider range of projects identified.

Recommendations will be developed, validated, and shared back with the ICB as well as national audit providers.

How is your project going to share learning?

During the project the following national groups / communities are to be kept informed:

- Q 'Clinical Audit SIG'
- N-QI-CAN – The national network of
- NHSE Action from National Clinical Audit
- NCAPOP national audit 'providers', through the HQIP Methodology Advisory Group (MAG)

The review of interview themes, and resultant action planning will involve local Heads of Clinical Effectiveness within the ICB. This will provide a significant opportunity for local sharing and learning.

Production of a report for publication on the HQIP and Q websites.

As time / resource allows – follow-up sessions with clinical effectiveness managers via NQICAN, and further ICB leadership teams to validate the findings and recommendations.

25 Jun 2023 Scoping of project and detailed planning

31 Jul 2023 Initial engagement with ICBs to seek participation

Sept 2023 ICB engagement to agree scope, specialties, objectives and plan

Nov-Dec 2023 Scoping of other activities in aligned areas of work

6 Dec 2023 Presentation to South Yorkshire ICB Quality Leads

Jan 2024 Design, development and planning for semi-structured interviews

Feb-Mar 24 Interviews

Apr 24 Initial review of findings with audit leads, audit providers and ICB

May 24 Production of learning report for Q