NHS Wales National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review Plan 2012/13
NHS Wales National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review Plan
Annual Rolling Programme from 2012/13.

This Plan sets out how participation and the findings from the National Clinical Audit and Clinical Outcome Review (formerly Confidential Enquiries) Programmes, together with a small number of Wales specific audits and other reviews will be used to measure and drive improvement in the quality of Welsh healthcare services over the next 5 years.

National clinical audits and outcome reviews are systematic data collection projects which compile and measure comparative data on compliance with best practice and the achievement of identified clinical outcomes against evidence based standards. They are cyclical programmes of quality improvement in which measurement is part of a wider cycle of action and review to improve the quality of services and achieve better patient outcomes.

1. What do we want to achieve?

In November 2011, the Minister for Health and Social Services launched “Together for Health” her five year vision for the NHS in Wales which calls for significant improvements in health across all areas of Wales and all groups within Wales. This initiative recognises that sharp differences remain between the best and worst health in Wales and that our performance lags behind similar countries in some important aspects. It calls for more use to be made of proven methods for assessing services to improve practice and for clinical staff to constantly compare their performance with others, both inside and outside Wales.

NHS Wales needs to become a learning organisation which regularly seeks to measure the quality of its services against consistently improving standards and in comparison with other healthcare systems across the UK, Europe and the World. This measurement should be used to set improvement priorities and to ensure a commitment to carry out recommendations based upon the detailed knowledge of the process provided. The standardised improvement methodology taken forward by 1000 Lives Plus is a recognised approach to take this forward within NHS Wales.

The requirement to participate in quality improvement activities is already embedded within the Annual Quality Framework and through every Health Board and Trusts engagement in 1000 Lives Plus, the national quality improvement programme for Wales. The requirement is also included within Standard 6 of the Standards for Health Services in Wales. The results of clinical audit and outcome reviews are therefore one of the core mechanisms for assessing the quality of Welsh healthcare services and confirming how they compare against the best services provided elsewhere.

This important activity enables Health Boards and Trusts to demonstrate how they are continuously improving against the overall requirements set out in “Doing well, Doing better - Standards for Health Services in Wales. This particularly includes standard 7 and the requirement to provide safe and clinically effective care in accordance with NICE and other clinical standards and guidelines. National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review are therefore one of the key drivers for change in
NHS Wales. This plan will support the objectives of Together for Health and the Quality Delivery Plan for NHS Wales in our drive for improved clinical outcomes.

2. What is the role of the National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review Advisory Committee

To encourage greater focus on Welsh priorities a National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review Advisory Committee (NCAORAC) has been established under the Chairmanship of Dr Bruce Ferguson, Medical Director for Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board. The Committee will:

- Provide national leadership and professional endorsement for NHS Wales participation in a rolling annual programme of clinical audit and review.
- Ensure that audits, reviews and national registries are relevant to Wales and provide clearly identifiable Welsh data, where appropriate.
- Maximise the benefit by encouraging widespread learning.
- Promote action to improve the quality and safety of patient care through application of the 1000 Lives Plus standardised improvement methodology in areas prioritised by the audit.
- Ensure alignment of prioritised areas with 1000 Lives Plus areas of work.
- Recommend a programme of national clinical audits and clinical outcome reviews which all Health Boards and NHS Trusts who provide the relevant services should participate in as a minimum. This programme will be reviewed annually, and may be subject to additions during the course of the year if the Committee supports Welsh participation in any new National Audits being developed.
- To liaise with HQIP in respect of NHS Wales requirements.

New proposed audits will be assessed by the NCAORAC against the following criteria and must:

- address a clinically important topic;
- have clear aims and objectives;
- be based upon clearly understood standards;
- fit with Welsh priorities and requirements;
- attempt to embrace the whole pathway of care, including primary care;
- have professional endorsement and leadership;
- be responsive to local requirements.

The agreed NHS Wales programme of audits is likely to include the majority of audits currently supported by the National Clinical Audit and Patients Outcome Programme (NCAPOP) managed by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP), and will also include a number of other National or multi-organisational audits identified by NHS Wales and the Committee as being essential. We will aim to
develop the programme to be more inclusive of primary and community care. The final agreed list will be published annually in March. The programme for 2012/13 is attached at Annex A.

Audit programmes evolve over time and other sources such as local audits may highlight local problems which would benefit from pilot bolt-on data collection in Wales. This process needs to be appropriately supported. Proposals for pilot bolt-on national audits must:

- address a clinically important topic;
- be based on intelligence that suggests the topic is an issue within Wales;
- have clear aims and objectives;
- be based upon clearly understood standards;
- fit with Welsh priorities and requirements;
- be part of the pathway of care;
- have professional endorsement and leadership;
- be responsive to local requirements;
- include plans on how the additional data will be collected, analysed and reported;
- not impose undue additional burden on those providing the data;
- highlight how existing resources alone can be deployed to deliver the audit.

In the interests of maintaining quality while enabling evolution of audits into potentially important new areas, NCAORAC will be able to indicate where they do not approve of a pilot bolt-on audit.

Full list of Committee Membership:

Bruce Ferguson (Chair), Medical Director, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB.
Robin Burgess, CEO, Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership.
Peter Barrett-Lee, Medical Director, Velindre NHS Trust.
Martin Murphy, Clinical Director at NHS Wales Informatics service.
Janet Davies, Patient Safety Advisor, Welsh Government.
Caroline Oakley, Director of Nursing, Hywel Dda HB.
Arlene Shenkorov, Chair, Welsh Clinical Audit & effectiveness Association.
Frank Mansell, Clinical Governance Support & dev. Unit, NLIAH.
Alison Strode, Therapy Adviser for Wales, Welsh Government.
Denise Richards, Nursing Officer Acute Services, Welsh Government.
Karen Gully, Senior Medical Officer (Gen Pract and Prim Care), Welsh Gov.
Amanda Smith, Director of Therapies and Health Science, Powys tHB.
3. How will participation, learning and action on the findings be encouraged throughout Wales?

This will be achieved by:

**Improved communication and encouragement of audit:**

- With the publication of a twice a year All-Wales National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review e-bulletin highlighting recent developments and publications including the reports and findings of national audits.
- Feeding back on the benchmarked performance of individual providers within clinical audits and reviews to these organisations as appropriate for reflection and action.
- By raising the profile of clinical audit with boards, patient groups, clinicians and all staff working within the NHS, including by national events and liaison with professional bodies in Wales to encourage audit amongst their disciplines and specialisms.
- Developing closer partnerships working with LHB/Trust clinical audit teams to improve knowledge and understanding of national and local audit and review activities.
- Working in partnership with other healthcare organisations eg. Public Health Wales, National Welsh Information Service, National Leadership & Innovation Agency for Healthcare to promote and encourage a culture of participation in audit and action on findings.

**Identifying areas needing a national approach to improvement:**

- Reviewing common issues for all Welsh healthcare providers arising from audit and reviews and sharing solutions.
- Through the development of closer links to 1000 Lives plus improvement programme.
- Working in partnership, via HQIP and with audit project teams to ensure the provision of Welsh-specific findings and potential solutions, and develop and organise workshops and events to disseminate them.

**Addressing clinical services where performance may give cause for concern:**

- Clearly identifying the comparative performance of individual provider organisations and understanding the reasons for any disparity.
- Developing and publishing a protocol confirming the arrangements for the identification and handling of organisations identified in audits and reviews as being “Outliers” including such activity designed to improve and encourage quality improvement.
Greater transparency:

- By seeking to improve the way in which the findings, recommendations and improvement actions from audit and reviews are made available to patients, public and all staff working in the NHS.

4. What is the Role of Welsh Government?

In partnership with the Department of Health in England, other UK Government Health Departments and the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP), the Welsh Government supports and funds the cost of NHS Wales participation in the National Clinical Audit and Clinical Outcome Review Programme. The Welsh Government also seeks to encourage greater participation in and acting on the findings from clinical audit leading to improved services, better patient outcomes and safer patient care through improved communication, leadership, feedback and by building on the advice that it receives from the NCAORAC.

5. What are the responsibilities of Welsh Health Boards and Trusts?

Welsh Health Boards and Trusts should provide the resources to enable their staff to participate in all audits, reviews and national registers included within the programme that fall within the services they provide. They should complete the full audit cycle implementing an action plan to drive changes or improvements in healthcare services to meet recommendations.

To ensure the maximum benefit is derived from participation, LHBs and Trusts should:

- Ensure the necessary resources, governance and organisational structures are place to support participation in audits, reviews and national registers and to ensure implementation of findings using the standardised improvement methodology.
- Appoint a clinical lead to act as a champion and point of contact for every National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review which the Health Board is participating in.
- Have clearly identifiable procedures in place to formally report through their assurance processes to the Board their participation in the National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review Programme and subsequent quality improvement and risk identification against recommendations.
- Have clear lines of communication which ensures full board engagement in the consideration of audit and review of findings and, where required, the change process to ensure improvements in the quality and safety of services take place.
- Facilitate the wider use of data from audit and national registries to be used as supporting information for medical revalidation.
- Seek to ensure learning from audit and review is shared across the organisation and communicated to staff and patients.
6. How Will We Measure Success?

By year on year consideration of audit reports and in comparison with other UK, European and International healthcare systems to determine how compliance with best practice and achievement of healthcare outcomes compares to national and international benchmarks.

The following key criteria will also be used for judging success:

- 100% participation by all LHBs and Trusts where applicable in the full programme of National Clinical Audits and Clinical Outcome Review by the end of 2012-13.
- Measurable year on year improvements in performance to achieve the highest standards. Organisations recognised as being within the top quartile for each audit and maintaining that level.
- Improvements in the quality and safety of patient outcomes and experience brought about by learning and action arising from the findings of National Clinical Audit and Clinical Outcome Review reports.
- Less variation between local services.

By 2016 the aim must be to see Welsh services being identified as amongst the best in the UK, Europe and the rest of the World.

7. How Will We Maintain Success

It is one thing to attain success and another to maintain it sustainably. The audit and quality improvement approach has the advantage of engaging those placed to make change and those expected to deliver and maintain change on a daily basis. This approach has a demonstrated track record of delivering and maintaining service improvement for a range of issues in a range of settings. Thus, where there are expectations of delivering and maintaining better quality care and outcomes, the audit and quality improvement should be the normally used first-line approach.

8. Conclusion

The findings and recommendations from National clinical audit, outcome reviews and all other forms of reviews and assessments will be one of the principal mechanisms for assessing the quality and effectiveness of healthcare services provided by LHBs and Trusts in Wales. In line with our stated ambition to develop a healthcare service that is recognised as being one of the best in the world, and to drive forward improvement, the clinical audit process will also be used to assess Welsh healthcare services against similar services being provided in other countries in the UK, Europe and Internationally.
Annex A

Annual Programme for 2012 - 13 of National Clinical Audit and Outcome Reviews in which all Welsh LHBs/Trusts must participate (where services are provided)

### Cancer:
- National Bowel Cancer Audit *
- National Lung Cancer Audit *
- National Head and Neck Cancer Audit *
- National Oesophago-gastric Cancer Audit *
- National Prostate Cancer Audit (new audit being developed) *
- The All Wales Breast Cancer Audit

### Heart:
- National Heart Failure Audit *+
- National Heart Rhythm Management Audit *
- National Adult Cardiac Surgery Audit *
- National Angioplasty Audit *
- National Congenital Heart Disease Audit *
- Myocardial Ischaemia National Audit Project (MINAP) *+
- The All Wales Coronary Audit *
- Central Cardiac Audit Database (CCAD) Percutaneous Coronary Intervention Audit
- CCAD National Congenital Audit
- Familial Hypercholesterolaemia Audit
- The Cardiac Rehabilitation Audit

### Mental Health:
- National Audit of Psychological Therapies * (and Welsh Government Review of Access to and Implementation of Psychological Therapy Treatment in Wales)
- National Dementia Audit *+
- National Audit of Schizophrenia *

### Older People:
- National Carotid Interventions Audit *
- National Sentinel Stroke Audit * (being developed as a new audit with SINAP in 2012-13)
- National Hip Fracture Database Audit *
- National Falls Audit *
### Women's and Children’s Health:
- Paediatric Intensive Care (PICaNet) *
- National Heavy Menstrual Bleeding Audit *
- National Neonatal Audit Programme Audit *
- National Childhood Epilepsy Audit *
- UK Obstetric Surveillance

### Pathology:
- SHOT - Serious Hazards of Blood Transfusion
- Use of Platelets
- Use of ORh Negative
- Use of Group O RhD Negative Blood
- Use of Red Blood Cells in Neonates & Children
- Blood Transfusion - Bedside Audit
- Fresh Frozen Plasma

### Nursing:
- Fundamentals of Care Audit

### Other:
- Trauma Audit & Research Network
- National Joint Registry *
- National Asthma Deaths Audit (new audit being developed) *
- National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (new audit being developed) *
- National Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Audit (new audit being developed) *
- National Vascular Registry Audit (new audit being developed) *
- Comparative Audit of Critical Care Unit Adult Patient Outcomes (ICNARC)
- Welsh Intensive Care Unit Audit (Welsh Intensive Care Society )+

(* denotes NCAPOP Audits)
(+denotes outcome measure linked to 1000 Lives Plus area of work)
Clinical Outcomes Review Programme (formerly Confidential Enquiries)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical and Surgical Programme:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Cardiac Arrest Procedures Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bariatric Surgery Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Alcohol Related Liver Disease Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Subarachnoid Haemorrhage Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mental Health Programme+:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Annual Report of Suicide, Homicide, and Sudden Unexpected Death by People with a Mental Illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• General Population suicide in primary care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Models of Service Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Quality of Risk Assessment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Health Programme:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Child Death Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Child Health Thematic Review</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maternal, Infant and Perinatal Programme+:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme currently under review - OJEU Procedure announced on 19 December 201. Data continues to be collected by the Maternal and Perinatal Mortality Notification (MPMN) secure web portal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>