



Clinical audit and registries: A best practice guide

- 01. Patient engagement and co-design :** NHS England expects all owners of clinical audits and registries to have a plan to involve patients, carers and the public in the design, implementation and evaluation of clinical audits and registries.
- 02. Reduce burden on clinicians:** NHS England mention the burden of NCA's 8 times in the guide! By automating data collection, minimising duplication and using AI, there is significant opportunity to reduce burden on clinicians and NHS Trusts.
- 03. Ensure data timeliness:** Many national audits have historically reported their results 2-3 years after data capture and NHS England are calling time on this. NHS England are clear that national projects need to use near or real-time data.
- 04. Drive improvements:** NHS England state that 'clinical audit and registries play a pivotal role in driving quality improvement'. NCAs support a continuous cycle of improvement and the guide reinforces the essential role clinical audits play in supporting a modern, evidence-based approach to QI across the NHS.
- 05. Standards-based projects:** The guide states: 'clinical audit is a way to determine if healthcare is being provided in line with standards'. Audit helps providers, commissioners and patients appreciate where services are doing well and where improvements are needed in line with evidence-based standards.
- 06. Decommissioning process and value for money:** The guide states there must be a clear process for decommissioning clinical audits and registries that takes into consideration care impact and value for money.