National Respiratory Audit Programme (NRAP)

Primary Care Audit: Information Governance Frequently Asked Questions

Version 1.0: September 2023

A separate information governance FAQ document is also available on the primary care underline resources page.

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National Respiratory Audit Programme
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www.rcp.ac.uk/nrap

General Information

What are the contact details for the primary care audit team?

> You can contact us at 020 3075 1526, or nrapinbox@rcp.ac.uk. Our help desk is open from 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Does the audit programme have a Twitter account?

> Yes, it does. Our twitter handle is @NRAPaudit. The team post regular updates.

What are the objectives of the national respiratory primary care audit?

> Measure the delivery and quality of asthma and COPD care and its variation.
>
> Improve quality of care for people with asthma and COPD.
>
> Improve data recording to support measurement against national standards.
>
> Identify areas of COPD and asthma care that have improved since the 2017 audit and areas where additional improvements are needed.
>
> Provide feedback on performance against standards at practice, Local Health Board (LHB) and national level and make recommendations for improvement.
>
> Signpost to, and influence the development of, health improvement resources.

What resources are available for the audit and where can I download them from?

> The following resources are available on our website:
>
> o Data queries
>
> o Read codes
>
> o Fair processing information
>
> o Information governance FAQs

Who is involved?

> The Health Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) - data controller for all data collected and reported on by the NRAP, including this primary care audit.
>
> Data processors include:
>
> o Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW) – who provide access to aggregated practice level data and the provision of the respiratory DHCW Primary Care Information portal. DHCW will also provide analysed, aggregated practice level data to RCP and Imperial College London for national reporting.
>
> o Royal College of Physicians (RCP) – who run the audit and produce national and local reporting outputs

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- Imperial College London – who provide reporting and statistical data analysis support
> The audit will be overseen by the various governance groups that form part of NRAP. These include representation from GPs, nurses, the Respiratory Health Implementation Group (RHIG), along with Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) and Primary Care Respiratory Society (PCRS-UK) members, technical advisors and asthma and COPD patients.

Can a practice still register to participate in the audit?

> As part of the GMS contract, all GP practices in Wales are required to take part in audit activity therefore there is no registration process for the NRAP audit.
> Practices who have queries about their inclusion in the audit are advised to contact their Local Health Board representative.

How much work will it entail for participating general practices?

> No action is required by practices.
> Practices will, however, be required to carry out the following fair processing activities:
  - Display a poster in their practice waiting room. An electronic copy will be provided via information letters sent to practices and be made available on the NRAP website.
  - If a patient requests further information, supply a patient information leaflet (these are also available on the NRAP website).
> Should any issues be identified during the process, the practice may be contacted, although any requirement for additional activity at the practice should be minimal.

Information Governance

What are the information governance arrangements for this audit?

> This audit does not require Confidentiality Advisory Group (CAG) approval as no patient identifiable information is collected. It is not subject to Common Law Duty of Confidentiality and patient consent is not required. The audit is supported by Welsh Government and is approved by the Data Quality System Governance Group.
> Full information governance arrangements and detailed FAQs are available on the primary care resources webpage. Data flows and patient information can also be accessed via this link.

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Eligibility

What are the inclusion criteria?

> The patient is registered with a practice in Wales on the first day of the extraction period.

> The patient is deemed to have COPD or asthma based on the presence of a validated Read code. The full list of Read codes used for the primary care audit will be available before the extraction takes place on the NRAP resources webpage.

> The patient is aged 18 or over on the first day of the extraction period if they are recorded as having COPD.

> The patient is aged 1 or over (to distinguish between wheezy infants that are not asthmatics and those where an official diagnosis has been made) on the first day of the extraction period.

What are the exclusion criteria?

> Because the Wales Primary Care audit, under NRAP, will not use patient information at all and only aggregated practice level data will be accessed the need to apply opt out codes will no longer be required as there is no risk of individual patients being identified through the audit.

> Practice-level reports will made available to each individual practice via the DHCW Primary Care Information Portal but are not made publicly available.

Information for patients

What information about the audit is available to give to patients?

> Participating practices should display a poster in their practices which advises patients of the audit taking place. Electronic copies of the poster will be distributed via information letters to practices.

> Practices can also supply a copy of the NRAP patient information leaflet if further information is requested. Leaflets are available for adults, parents/carers and children and young people.

> PDFs of the poster and patient information are available on the audit resources webpage.

Data collection and submission

What data items are collected?

> This audit will only use aggregated, practice level data required to answer the audit questions for relevant patients (people with asthma and/or COPD).

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> A full list of data items, including the Read codes used for the extraction are available to download from the NRAP resources webpage.

Why are you collecting data items which may be poorly collected or incomplete?

> All routinely collected data used for audits contain elements of incomplete recording and the audit team understands the critical importance of using the collected information responsibly, in a way that supports service improvement.

> The audit dataset contains data items aligned to asthma and COPD standards and guidelines, some of which are likely to be poorly recorded.

> This is a deliberate part of the audit design – where data quality/completeness is poor our aim is to promote ways to improve it. In keeping with a quality improvement agenda, the programme team will re-measure the performance annually, subject to future commissioning, with feedback to complete the audit cycle.

When is the primary care audit data collection period?

> Data will be accessed as per the following timelines:
> o Quarterly starting in Autumn 2023

How is data submitted to the audit?

> From June 2023, data required will be accessed via the DHCW Primary Care Information Portal.

> The data will be obtained from the practice clinical system and extracted automatically via Audit+ (via a similar process that has supported the National Diabetes Audit).

> Full data flows are available on the NRAP resources webpage.

Publication

How much information is going to be published about a practice and how well it has performed in the audit?

> Each practice included in the audit will have access to practice-level reporting via the Data Health and Care Wales (DHCW) Primary Care Information Portal. This will show the standards of care they are providing to their asthma and COPD patients, and how these compare with the rest of Wales.

> This information will help practices see where they need to improve the care they provide to people with asthma and COPD. These reports will provide aggregated data and will not include patient-level data. Practice-level reports will not be made publicly available.

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> Reports will also be produced for Local Health Boards (LHBs). These will be made publicly available but will not name individual practices. LHB and national level reports will be published on the NRAP website.

Quality Improvement (QI)

How can I improve care for my asthma and COPD patients?

> GP practices in Wales (and Yorkshire and Harrogate) will have access to the bespoke Institute for Clinical Science and Technology (ICST) QI portal which provides a selection of QI tools, resources, and videos specific to the NRAP audit and its QI targets.

> QI priorities, with rationale and tips for achieving these, have been identified and highlighted within the 2021 audit report. Accompanying QI resources such as a QI slide sets are also available via this link.

> Commentary on how general practices can improve their performance in coding, alongside educational and practical tools to help improve asthma and COPD care, will be included in reports.

> These resources will be accessible from NRAP's website and developed in collaboration with the RCP's partner organisations.

Further Information

If you would like further information about the primary care audit or the wider NRAP programme, you can visit our website at: www.rcp.ac.uk/nrap

Or contact the NRAP team directly via:

> Email - NRAP@rcp.ac.uk or,

> Telephone - 020 3075 1526.

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