

NICOR NEWS: SPRING 2020

A word from Professor John Deanfield, NICOR Director

We're now well into the New Year, but last year was another very constructive year for NICOR! We published the **National Cardiac Audit Programme Report 2019** along with separate clinical domain summary reports and hospital level data in September, and for the first time a dedicated **Annual Report for Patients and the Public** across all six specialties covered by NCAP.

A big thank you to all our clinical colleagues, members of our committees, patients, colleagues from the Trusts, Commissioners, NHS England, NICOR staff and our funders HQIP for their fantastic support in the last year.

I look forward to working with you all in 2020 and beyond!

John

National Cardiac Audit Programme (NCAP) contract extension 2020-2022

We are delighted to announce that NICOR's funding contract for the National Cardiac Audit Programme, held by Barts Health NHS Trust, has been extended for a further 2 years, until June 2022.

NCAP data for research

We are pleased to announce that fees for access to the rich research data generated by the national cardiac audit programme have been frozen for the fourth year running.

NICOR has secured CAG approval for onward sharing of ONS, HES and PEDW data for research purposes. We just need to put in place data sharing agreements with NHS Digital and the NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS). We hope to be able to update on this in the next newsletter.

FOCUS ON: LAUNCHES QI (Linking AUdit and National datasets in Congenital HEart Services for quality improvement)

LAUNCHES QI is a research study which is funded by the charity the Health Foundation and sponsored by UCL. The research team, led by Professor Christina Pagel and Dr Sonya Crowe, are using routinely collected data across England and Wales to understand better the quality of services that the NHS provides to people born with Congenital Heart Disease. The project aims to create a more comprehensive and meaningful picture of services so that both services and information available to patients and their families can be continually improved.

You can read more about this study and all other current research projects using NCAP data [here](#)

NICOR contacts list— don't miss out

We are in the process of updating our contacts lists to be compliant with recent data protection requirements, and want to make sure we are only emailing people who want to be contacted by us. **Kelly O'Brien** recently emailed a

number of you to confirm if you wish to receive audit related news and information.

Please let us know by email that you are happy to be contacted, and also pass this on to anyone else who deals with the National Cardiac Audit Programme (covering NACSA, NACRM, NAPCI, MINAP, NHFA and NCHDA) and ask them to contact nicor.auditenquiries@nhs.net so we can continue to send these updates to everyone who wants them.

Update on new IT Platform

A new reporting framework to facilitate real time reporting of QI metrics across the programme is being developed and integrated within the IT platform. Two of the NCAP domains have been fast tracked to develop a set of **online reporting tools** which allows hospitals to generate a selection of QI metric reports using data in real-time.

Data are presented visually in interactive charts and tables and each report can be downloaded as a pdf document. In addition, hospitals will be able to design their own reports by setting specific parameters including the data period, time interval (Monthly, Quarterly, Financial Year or Calendar Year), comparisons with the national aggregate data and options for visualisation. Hospitals will also be able to generate an annual report composed of several QI metrics which will be embedded into a QI guidance document (QI packs) which we are currently developing with support from UCLP. These will be available for hospitals to access and download directly from the IT platform and to be used locally by QI teams and others.

In conjunction with the online reports we have also developed an interactive data querying facility for hospitals to run simple and complex queries on any aspect of the audit datasets in real time. This new reporting facility will be launched in line with the next NCAP Annual report in the spring of 2020 and will be initially made available for the NAPCI and NACSA audits.

New validation process from 2021

These new reporting facilities will support NICOR to streamline and automate existing processes, thereby establishing a continuous data validation process, which we hope will further reduce the current annual reporting timelines.

Because of this, we and NHS England/NHS Wales will need to have regular uploads of data and ongoing continuous data validation in future, rather than only once, or a few times a year. So please start looking at how you can achieve this locally and have the necessary discussions about resource, IT etc, before the change happens. For next year's annual reports you can continue with the current process of annual validation at the end of the reporting cycle. We are anticipating that for 2020/21 data the database will be locked **end June 2021** in order to publish the 2020/21 report by Christmas 2021.

Calling all National Heart Failure Audit Clinical Leads...

An optional survey of implantable cardioverter defibrillator deactivation service provision in the community. [Click here](#) for more information and to complete the survey.*

The aim of the survey is to explore and better understand the process of community-based ICD deactivation in order to develop measures to improve services. Your heart failure nurse specialists may have been approached separately on this subject but as a heart failure clinical service lead linked to the NHFA, you may be particularly well placed to comment on some of the organisational issues and your input is very valuable.

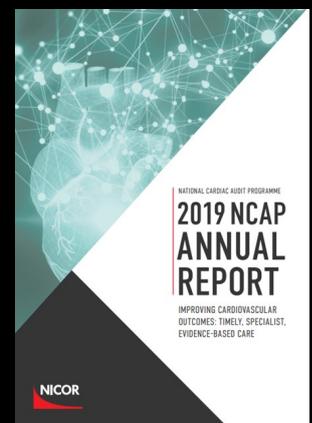
Deadline: midnight Monday 30 March 2020

*This survey is not being carried out by NICOR and is *not* part of the National Heart Failure Audit, please contact the survey owner if you have any questions. All data collected and reported will be anonymous. The project was approved by St Christopher's Hospice Ethics Committee.

NCAP Report and Patient and Public Report 2019

NICOR's second **National Cardiac Audit Programme report** was published online on 12 September 2019.

This year the themes were **Timeliness of Care, Access to Specialist Care** and **Evidence Based Care Delivered Equitably**.



NICOR also published the first ever **Annual Report for Patients and the Public** across all six clinical domains.

It is written with a lay audience in mind and contains graphics and links to sources of further information.

It is dedicated in the memory of NICOR Patient Representative Richard Fitzgerald. Richard was one of the writers of the report and sadly passed away just before it was published.

Read the Patient Report [here](#)

NICOR/UCLP Quality Improvement (QI) Roadshows

Leeds, Friday 6 March and Bristol, Friday 20 March

NICOR and UCL Partners have come together to host a series of one day roadshows this spring. They are designed to help you to understand your data and learn how to use a Quality Improvement (QI) approach to make positive changes in service and improve care for your patients. Our London date on Friday 7 February (more below) sold out very quickly when it went online but we still have places on the following dates:

LEEDS: 9.30am-4.30pm Friday 6 March, Marriott Hotel, 4 Trevelyan Square, Boar Lane, Leeds LS1 6ET

BRISTOL: 9.30am-4.30pm Friday 20 March, Doubletree by Hilton Bristol City Centre, Redcliffe Way, Bristol BS1 6NJ

For more information about these **free** roadshows, and to register, click [here](#)

London Roadshow

On Friday 7 February around 100 attendees gathered for the first of our regional QI roadshows (hashtag [#CardiacQILondon](#) on Twitter). They explored QI methodology and aims with UCLP's professional improvement coaches, as well as hearing presentations from **Mark de Belder**, NICOR Operational and Methodology Group Chair, and other speakers. There was a useful and interesting presentation by NICOR Patient Representative **Sarah Brown**, about using patient experience to improve the quality of patient care as well as opportunities to network with colleagues in other trusts and speak to several NICOR staff who attended about any aspect of NCAP audit work.



New Domain Clinical Lead wanted: National Congenital Heart Disease Audit (NCHDA)

Our current clinical lead, Dr Rodney Franklin, is retiring at the end of June and NICOR is looking for someone with the passion and skills to lead the audit into the next phase of quality improvement.

The deadline for this exciting role has been extended to midnight 13 March 2020. Click [here](#) for more details, a job description and details on how to apply.

We are very grateful to Dr Franklin for all his hard work over the years and wish him the very best for his retirement.

We also thank John Stickley, who is also retiring soon, for his important contribution to the NCHDA.

NICOR Patient Representative Group (PRG) and Virtual Patient Panel

The NICOR PRG is our group for issues of interest or concern to patients with heart disease. It has a role in developing the audit and has input into communications to patients.

We want to expand our patient engagement activities further and are looking for patients to join either the face to face PRG, meeting up to 4 times a year, or our Virtual Panel (working electronically on an ad hoc basis, no specific commitment)

We have produced an advert which can also be printed out as a poster.

You can download this [here](#)

Please share with all your networks and pass to anyone you think would be interested in shaping the audit to ensure that the patient voice is centred in what we do.

For more information, please contact our Stakeholder Engagement Lead, **Kelly O'Brien**

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