

National COPD Audit Programme

Newsletter 8, May 2016

Welcome to the eighth edition of the National COPD Audit Programme newsletter. Since our last newsletter, we've been very busy. The next two years of the programme are shaping up to be very exciting. Please visit us at our website, as programme updates will appear there first (www.rcplondon.ac.uk/COPD). If you would like to register to receive updates directly via email, then please contact copd@rcplondon.ac.uk.

All the best, Emma Skipper, Juliana Holzhauser-Barrie, and Hamdi Issa (National COPD Audit Programme team)

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Also in this issue: Call for Quality Improvement Initiatives; and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Accreditation pilot scheme

Mike Roberts, the clinical lead for the audit programme, says about the next two years of work:

Thanks to you the COPD Audit programme has produced the largest and most comprehensive clinical and organisational datasets ever collected covering acute hospital care, pulmonary rehabilitation and primary care. In recognition of this success the Health Quality Improvement Programme has funded a two year extension of the audit.

It's really important now that we use the data to improve patient care, the key element of the audit cycle. The data has already been used to inform the new NICE COPD Quality Standards and is to be used by commissioners to measure compliance. If you read Thorax you will have noticed that the audit reports have been frequently cited in articles on COPD care and data is being used to identify future areas of research.

Key however is the QI element of audit and we are currently in negotiation with NHS England and NHS Wales to link to a number of national QI projects that should support you and colleagues to improve patient care. The first is an Accreditation Scheme for PR operated via the College of Physicians and BTS and pump primed by NHSE. The initial peer review visits are already underway for the pilot sites. The second is a national Best Practice Tariff for inpatient COPD care that we hope to agree for implementation in 2017. This will require the prospective collection of a small number of process and outcome items for all COPD admissions and we are currently working on that data set and the IT system needed to support the linkage to payment to Trusts for better care.

The next rounds of audit will be specifically aligned to support these QI initiatives and further details will be sent out shortly. If you have ideas for national or regional QI or if you are interested in sitting on the National COPD Audit QI committee please email the team at copd@rcplondon.ac.uk.

Once again thank you for your support and for helping to make a difference to our patients.

Follow us on Twitter!

The programme has its own Twitter account [@NatCOPDAudit](https://twitter.com/NatCOPDAudit), and the programme hashtags are [#COPDAudit](https://twitter.com/hashtag/COPDAudit), [#COPDWhoCares?](https://twitter.com/hashtag/COPDWhoCares?), [#COPDWhoCaresMatters](https://twitter.com/hashtag/COPDWhoCaresMatters), [#COPDPRaudit](https://twitter.com/hashtag/COPDPRaudit), and [#COPDPRbreathebetter](https://twitter.com/hashtag/COPDPRbreathebetter).



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National COPD Audit Programme extended for a further two years

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) is pleased to announce that the National COPD Audit Programme is to be commissioned for a further two years, until Feb 2018, in England and Wales. The programme will continue to comprise of a number of ambitious audit workstreams, delivered through partnership working, and will seek to improve services and care for COPD patients.

The audit programme is led by the Clinical Effectiveness and Evaluation Unit of the RCP, working in partnership with the British Thoracic Society (BTS), British Lung Foundation, Primary Care Respiratory Society UK and Royal College of General Practitioners and a number of other organisations.

The audit programme is commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) as part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP) and is included in the list of national audits for inclusion in all English NHS trusts' Quality Accounts and the NHS Wales Clinical Audit & Outcome Review Plan.

The next two years will include further cross-sectional audits of pulmonary rehabilitation service organisation and delivery, along with a move to the continuous collection of a much smaller set of data for our secondary care audit of admissions to hospital with COPD exacerbations. This will provide a fantastic opportunity to drive improvements in the quality of care and services provided for COPD patients and it is hoped to link continuous data collection to a national Best Practice Tariff for COPD hospital care.

The RCP would like to thank the BTS team for their key role in the highly successful operational delivery of the secondary care and pulmonary rehabilitation audits in year 1-3 of the audit programme, and for the Society's strong support for the wider audit programme since its inception.

In the next phase of the programme, with the move to continuous secondary care data collection, and the investment in new IT systems, infrastructure, processes, and data-flows to support this, the delivery of the secondary care and pulmonary rehabilitation audits will be delivered in-house at the RCP. BTS will continue to work closely with the RCP as a keen, supportive and much valued strategic partner of the audit programme, and its various workstreams, as it moves into its next exciting phase.

Prof Mike Roberts, National COPD Audit Programme clinical lead, RCP, said:

"We are very pleased that HQIP has recognised the value of the COPD audit and awarded a two year extension to the programme. This provides us with an opportunity to take stock of the feedback we have had from participants and move towards more streamlined and simpler data collection. Linking data to national quality improvement initiatives such as the Best Practice Tariff and a pilot pulmonary rehab accreditation scheme will provide maximum impact to deliver better care to patients. The 2014 audit data demonstrated significant improvements in care to patients. We look forward to working with BTS, BLF, RCGP, PCRS-UK and all frontline staff in making an even greater difference over the next 2 years."

Dr Bernard Higgins, Former Chair, BTS Executive Committee, said:

"The British Thoracic Society has been a long-standing and enthusiastic supporter of the national COPD audit programme and has been delighted to provide the successful leadership and delivery of the secondary care and pulmonary rehabilitation workstreams for the first round of the current programme. The Society will continue to support the national COPD audit in the next exciting phase of its development and will work closely with all involved to drive improvements in the quality of care for those with COPD."

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Secondary Care workstream – move to continuous data collection for clinical audit

In the next two years of the audit programme, the secondary care audit will be moving from snapshot data collection to continuous. This will formally start in **February 2017**. Data will be entered via a new web-tool to enable real-time reporting, a process that has proved a key driver of Quality Improvement in the stroke and myocardial infarction National Audits.

A much-reduced COPD dataset will be used. The dataset will be put out for public consultation during May, and responses will be encouraged from anyone wishing to provide input to the future of the audit.

The audit programme will be contacting sites for recruitment throughout the summer of 2016, as well as looking for pilot sites (see below). Participation in the COPD Audit will be a requisite of Trust Quality Accounts and a snapshot audit of COPD care organisation and resourcing will also be undertaken later in 2017, one section of which will be devoted to COPD Improvement plans made since the 2014 audit round. Now is a good time to discuss with your audit team how they will support the data entry for this new system.

If you have any questions, please let the COPD Audit Programme team know, and they will be happy to answer your questions.

Call for pilot sites: Secondary Care workstream

We are looking for pilot sites to test the new web-tool for continuous data collection, and the new dataset, in the summer of 2016. The pilot will be for a small number of cases, and will enable sites to directly contribute to the shape of the audit to come.

Call for pilot sites: Pulmonary Rehabilitation workstream

We are looking for pilot sites to test the new web-tool for the next round of snapshot data collection, as well as the new dataset. The pilot will also be in the summer of 2016.

Please contact copd@rcplondon.ac.uk if you would like to volunteer for either of the pilots.

New Workstream Timelines

Secondary care clinical and organisational audits:

Outcome data:

Spring 2016: Reception of outcome data for 2014 audit round; data cleaning and analysis; writing of report

Summer 2016: Publication of outcome report.

Continuous clinical audit:

Summer 2016: Piloting of RCP webtool and dataset for continuous audit.

Summer 2016 - Spring 2017: Recruitment of eligible sites to participate in continuous audit.

Autumn/Winter 2016: 'Soft launch' of continuous clinical audit.

February 2017: Full launch of continuous clinical audit.

April 2017: Best Practice Tariff for COPD care begins.

Snapshot organisational audit:

Spring 2016 – Spring 2017: Preparation of dataset for organisational audit; webtool development; recruitment of sites.

April 2017 – June 2017: Data collection

July 2017 – December 2017: Data analysis and reporting.

Pulmonary rehabilitation clinical and organisational audits:

TBC 2016: Publication of supplementary report.

Spring 2016-Winter 2016: Development of dataset and webtool for next round; recruitment of eligible sites

January 2017-July 2017: Data collection (both organisational and clinical)

May 2017 – November 2017: Data cleaning and analysis; site level reports; publication of national reports.

Primary care audit:

Welsh data:

December 2015: data extraction from Welsh GP practices.

January – February 2016: data analysis and report writing.

March 2016: practice level reports become available.

Late spring 2016: health board and cluster level reports become available

August 2016: national report on Welsh data published.

English data:

January – June 2016: preparation of GP reports from publicly available data.

June-July 2016: publication of national report for England from publicly available data.

The above timelines may be subject to change, but we will keep you updated regarding any changes and provide additional timeline details as they are confirmed.

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Pulmonary Rehabilitation workstream

The Pulmonary Rehabilitation workstream has now published both its organisational and clinical reports from the 2015 data collection. Participating services received their reports in September and December 2015, respectively, with the national reports published in November 2015 and February 2016.

The workstream group are currently refining the datasets in preparation for the next round, and then the audit programme will commence recruitment.

If you know of any Pulmonary Rehabilitation services that did not participate in the last round of audit, please let us know. The audit is aiming to have a comprehensive picture of the Pulmonary Rehabilitation services available to COPD patients in England and Wales.

The next round of data collection will begin in January 2017 and will go onto July 2017, for both the organisational and the clinical parts.

Quality Improvement Initiatives

The National COPD Audit Programme is looking for COPD-focused quality improvement work to share. We're keen to promote the work that has been done to improve all aspects of COPD care. So if you are planning any COPD quality improvement initiatives, or have already started or completed any, then please let us know. We would love to hear about them! Email us at copd@rcplondon.ac.uk

Summer event!

The National COPD Audit Programme will be hosting a quality improvement event, that will also be sharing information on the secondary care workstream and its future. The title is *Moving to prospective data collection and developing QI initiatives*. Please visit the event website at <https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/national-copd-audit-programme-moving-prospective-data-collection-and-developing-qi> for more information.

Audit reports currently available on our website – www.rcplondon.ac.uk/COPD

- **COPD Who Cares?** National Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Audit Programme: Resources and organisation of care in acute NHS units in England and Wales 2014 – national report and executive summary.
- **COPD: Who cares matters.** National Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Audit Programme: Clinical audit of COPD exacerbations admitted to acute units in England and Wales 2014 – national report and executive summary.
- **Pulmonary Rehabilitation: Time to breathe better.** National Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Audit Programme: Resources and organisation of Pulmonary Rehabilitation services in England and Wales 2015 – national report and executive summary.
- **Pulmonary Rehabilitation: Steps to breathe better.** National Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Audit Programme: Clinical audit of Pulmonary Rehabilitation services in England and Wales 2015 – national report and executive summary.

Pulmonary Rehabilitation Accreditation Pilot Scheme

The Royal College of Physicians' accreditation unit, the National COPD Audit Programme and the British Thoracic Society have been working together to deliver a pilot scheme to test the methodology and feasibility of a pulmonary rehabilitation accreditation scheme; as well as developing a new set of standards for pulmonary rehabilitation services. This scheme has been funded by the chief scientific officer of NHS England.

The sites and assessors were recruited, and the evidence submission stage finished at the start of April. The site visits were held during April 2016, and the site reports will be produced following these; as well as an evaluation report later in the spring.

The National COPD Audit Programme team have been very pleased to see the excellent progress that the pulmonary rehabilitation accreditation pilot scheme has made. For more information, please see the scheme's website <https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/pulmonary-rehabilitation-accreditation-pilot>

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Primary Care Workstream Update

This ambitious workstream involves the collection of audit data relating to COPD patient care and management from routinely collected data in computerised primary care records.

The primary care audit was designed to include all patients over the age of 35 years, with a diagnosis of COPD, on primary care registers, and it was originally commissioned in 2013 to cover both England and Wales.

Unfortunately, significant challenges and delays have been encountered, with increasing limitations on the permissions and mechanisms under which data can be obtained from English GP practices.

We have worked closely with our commissioners HQIP, the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) and the Health Research Authority to overcome these challenges. However, in July 2015, the decision was made by HQIP to decommission the England element of the primary care audit as comprehensive access to primary care data in England could not be achieved reliably at that time. It is hoped that commissioning of COPD primary care audit extractions in England will be re-established by HQIP at a future time when an efficient and cost-effective extraction process can be identified.

We are pleased to be able to proceed with annual COPD primary care audit extractions in Wales over the next three years. As originally planned, audit indicators selected will map to appropriate standards, guidelines and frameworks, eg NICE quality standards for COPD, as related to primary care. Data items will be identified by Read Code. The dataset will be linked to other existing data sources, including the other COPD audit workstream datasets.

Additionally, we are also undertaking a piece of work looking at existing publicly available primary care data in England. We anticipate that both elements of work will be supportive of future quality improvement (QI) activities in primary care in both England and Wales.

If you have any questions about this workstream, or you would like more information, please let us know at copd@rcplondon.ac.uk.

Primary Care Audit (Wales) practice level reports now available to download

Practices that consented to take part in the audit, are able to download a report that will provide a breakdown of important audit indicators of patient care in COPD for your practice, mapped to NICE guidance and Quality Standards, derived from their extracted data.

For those that did not take part in the audit, a shorter report, based only on publicly available COPD QOF data is available for download.

The reports are designed to help practices to understand how their practice is performing in relation to its care of COPD patients and to identify areas where improvements may be made; also where the practice is already providing good patient care. The rationale for each metric, along with suggested quality improvement tips and resources available at the time of publication are provided following each question for your consideration.

Practices will need to register for access to the Practice Level Reporting system in order to access their reports, and this is hosted by the Health and Social Care Information Centre's (HSCIC) Clinical Audit Support Unit. This system will allow staff at GP practices in Wales to access audit reports which are specific to their GP Practice in a secure manner.

Further information on how to register on the HSCIC system is available (<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/gpplr>), including a user guide and frequently asked questions (FAQs). Alternatively please contact the HSCIC contact centre on 0300 303 5678, or email the HSCIC at: gp.plr@hscic.gov.uk (please enter 'GP Practice Level Reporting' in the subject field of your email).

Follow us on Twitter!

The programme has its own Twitter account **@NatCOPDAudit**, and the programme hashtags are **#COPDAudit**, **#COPDWhoCares?**, **#COPDWhoCaresMatters**, **#COPDPRaudit**, and **#COPDPRbreathebetter**.

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National COPD Audit Programme team news:



The clinical leads and the programme team:

Top row, left to right: Professor Mike Roberts, clinical lead for the audit programme; Dr Robert Stone, clinical lead for the secondary care workstream; Professor Mick Steiner, clinical lead for the pulmonary rehabilitation workstream; and Dr Noel Baxter, clinical lead for the primary care workstream.

Bottom row, left to right: Juliana Holzhauser-Barrie, project manager; Hamdi Issa, programme coordinator

Watch this space for more members of staff soon to join!

Publications and journals

Dr Noel Baxter in the Future Hospital Journal
'Integrated care: respiratory medicine ready and waiting'

futurehospital.rcpjournals.org/content/3/1/37.full.pdf+html

Professor Michael Steiner and Professor Mike Roberts in the Lancet Respiratory Journal
'Pulmonary Rehabilitation: the next steps'
[www.thelancet.com/journals/lanres/article/PIIS2213-2600\(16\)00008-4/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanres/article/PIIS2213-2600(16)00008-4/abstract)

Professor Michael Steiner and Professor Mike Roberts in the April edition of RCP Commentary
'The national pulmonary rehabilitation audit: how can we improve care?'
www.rcplondon.ac.uk/commentary

Team News:

Thank you and farewell!

As I head off to pastures new, I would just like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who has been involved with the National COPD Audit Programme.

It has been a pleasure to be part of such an ambitious and challenging audit programme; working to improve care and services for COPD patients.

I very much look forward to watching the Programme develop and flourish as it continues on its journey into its next exciting phase.

Best wishes
Emma Skipper
National COPD Audit Programme Manager



Commissioned by:

