



# National Clinical Improvement Programme

## NCIP Portal

Online Portal for Consultant Learning

## About the National Clinical Improvement Programme

The National Clinical Improvement Programme (NCIP) seeks to support NHS consultants in England with learning and continuous self-development with respect to their specialty.

Currently focusing on surgical specialties, NCIP has worked to combine different types and sources of data to provide a single point of access to information for both consultants and those with medical appraisal and governance responsibilities.

The programme has developed an online portal to provide NHS consultant surgeons with individual data on their patient outcomes and comparative national benchmark data to support learning and improvement.

The intention is to:

- Drive scrutiny of patient outcomes at individual consultant level.
- Enable consultants to identify potential improvements to their clinical practice.
- Promote learning to improve patient safety and outcomes.

The programme is being delivered through the Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) programme in collaboration with GIRFT's clinical leads, and the full support of the Royal Colleges and specialty associations.

## Consultant-level data for surgery

The NCIP portal provides access to individual outcomes data and unit-level data across a range of surgical specialties. It enables NHS consultant surgeons to review information about their clinical activity and their patient outcomes against local and national benchmarks.

The GIRFT consultant specialty leads and their specialty associations have worked with NCIP on establishing agreed metrics for benchmarking. The content is presented on the portal via a series of procedure-specific dashboards. Metrics include volumes, length of patient stay or day case rate, and readmission rate. Other metrics such as re-operation rates, revision rates, complication rates and mortality are included for procedures where they are deemed appropriate. It also allows users to drill down to individual patient-level information via pseudonymised patient records to allow for full interrogation of consultant-level outcomes data. Currently, the portal is available only to consultant surgeons across the following surgical specialties:

■ general surgery

■ ENT surgery

■ paediatric surgery

■ oral and maxillofacial surgery

■ orthopaedic surgery

■ ophthalmology

■ obstetrics and gynaecology

■ urology

## Who can access the portal?

The portal offers a unique secure point of access to existing information from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), audit and registry, and private sector data sources.

It is a resource for the profession, and the consultant-level metrics developed for it will not be published outside of the portal. Once fully developed, it will be hosted on the NHS Improvement Model Hospital platform.

Only registered users will be permitted to log in and access the data. Registration is automatic and, once the NCIP team has completed the governance processes at a trust, eligible consultants will receive personal login details and an invitation to access the portal via email from their medical directorate.

## Professional development and improved patient care

NCIP's primary objective is to support quality improvement activities and professional appraisal, with the aim of delivering improved patient care. Consultants are encouraged to share their outcomes data with their appraiser and with colleagues as part of collaborative quality improvement activities.

It is hoped that access to this information will help consultants to reduce variation in patient outcomes and identify good practice, leading to better patient care and safety within the NHS.

**The intention is that consultants will use the portal to gain insight and an overview of their own patient outcomes leading to better patient care and safety within the NHS.**

## Portal development

It is intended that, in time, the NCIP portal will be extended to all surgical specialties in a phased approach. Over time the data sources will be expanded to include medical specialties and theatre data to give more clinicians access their outcomes data.

The portal is being rolled out across NHS trusts in stages. The first five 'early adopter' trusts are currently testing the portal, after which more trusts will be invited to launch the portal.

The trusts involved in the initial pilot phase are:

- Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust
- Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust
- Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust
- Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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For more information about GIRFT,  
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