

Measurement Programme



The North East Quality Observatory Service (NEQOS) has an established partnership with the Academic Health Science Network for the North East and North Cumbria (AHSN NENC). NEQOS is responsible for designing and producing health and healthcare surveillance and outcome measurement to enable the Board and Health Improvement programme leads to identify priorities to develop initiatives as well as monitor and evaluate the impact of these initiatives.

“The use of metrics and measurement helps to target resources around improvement initiatives as well as measure impact”, Jill Mitchell, Programme Lead

Programme background

NEQOS is a provider of expert clinical quality measurement services and has been working closely with the AHSN NENC to produce strategically and operationally important insights into the health status of the region and the healthcare system. The main outputs of this are:

Population Health & Surveillance report

Developed using advice from experts across the region, the report is published twice each year using data from the Public Health Outcomes Framework, End of Life Profiles, Primary Care Web Tool and indicators derived from Hospital Episode Statistics data. It highlights strong healthcare in the face of social and economic challenges as well as opportunities for innovation.

Programme measurement frameworks

Design and production of measures to support the Programme Leads to identify priorities and evaluate the impact of initiatives with respect to reducing clinical variation and improving quality. A measurement framework is being produced for each of the Health Improvement programmes



North East Quality Observatory Service

"To provide high quality expert intelligence in order to secure continually improving outcomes for patients"

Priority areas

For each Health Improvement programme the measurement framework will align to the main objectives of the AHSN to:

- Provide objective evidence of the current major strengths and challenges for the AHSN NENC in terms of population health and healthcare (identify priorities for action).
- Enable the AHSN to objectively monitor changes in the region's population health, identifying where there is wide variation in the provision of healthcare (measure process).
- Enable the AHSN NENC to monitor and evaluate the impact of its initiatives by measuring health outcomes (measure success).



Supporting clinicians and programme leads to use measurement

Work Programme projects overview

- NEQOS provides a quality measurement service to NHS organisations across the North East region and increasingly beyond. These are delivered by clinical epidemiological expertise and utilising high level analytical skills.
- NEQOS are currently working to develop and update a wide range of reports, dashboards and measurement frameworks and are ideally placed to support measurement of other projects funded by the AHSN NENC.

Projects include:

- The Population Health and Healthcare Surveillance report (updated in March 2016) ensures that stakeholders can share an understanding of the current state of health and healthcare in the region, an awareness of emerging trends or changes and the ability to identify clinical priorities for action.
- Detailed profiles have been developed around the measurement frameworks for the Atrial Fibrillation and Respiratory Care health improvement programmes and work is underway to complete the Mental Health and Fractures profiles.
- For the Frail Elderly programme, NEQOS are working closely with the programme and project leads to understand these key initiatives and develop appropriate metrics to provide an overarching measurement framework.
- Support for the cross cutting programmes is ongoing, with increasing input for the Patient Safety Collaborative and the Telehealth projects.
- NEQOS has also supported measurement of musculoskeletal projects funded by the AHSN including an innovation project to reduce infection after hip fracture surgery (collaboration with Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT) and an implementation project for the acute low back pain pathway (collaboration with South Tees NHS FT).
- The Back Pain report has been developed to support the planning, implementation and evaluation of better pathways of care for patients with low back and radicular pain. These reports are now being produced on a national footprint for the Department of Health (DH) funded 'Getting It Right First Time' project that is part of the DH Clinically Led Quality and Efficiency Programme.

Why this work is important for the region

Evidence suggests that patients in the NENC region are more likely to have a shorter lifespan and to die prematurely from preventable diseases and problems and are less likely to make healthy lifestyle choices.

Ongoing surveillance will contribute to evaluation of the impact of the AHSN NENC programmes as well as monitoring unintended consequences in other areas which are not currently the subject of direct focus.

Health Improvement programme measurement profiles include prevention and intervention initiatives with both process and outcome measures.

Overview of the AHSN NENC

The AHSN NENC is committed to improving both the health and economic prosperity of the region through innovation and dissemination of best practice. Key aims for the Network are to improve patient care and population health outcomes and to create wealth and stimulate engagement with industry to promote economic growth. The AHSN NENC health improvement programmes have already delivered the following:

- Investment of over £3m into projects designed to disseminate best practice and make a demonstrable impact on health outcomes.
- Established strategic partnerships with organisations including the North East Quality Observatory Service, the Northern England Strategic Clinical Network and Health Education England North East for the successful delivery of the Health Improvement Programmes.
- Successful delivery of the Patient Safety Collaborative with close to £500k invested in projects focused on improving patient safety and leading towards transformational change.
- Secured over £800k matched funding for investments from partner organisations.

Contact us

For further information on the Measurement Programme or on any aspect of the work done by NEQOS please contact the NEQOS team at neqos@nhs.net