



# **The National Cancer Audits**

## **Local Action Plan (LAP) Tool Kit**

## **Background to the audits**

The Information Centre for health and social care's National Clinical Audit Support Programme (NCASP) manages audits in cancer, coronary heart disease and diabetes. There are currently 5 cancer audits in Head and Neck, Lung, Bowel, Oesophago-gastric and Mastectomy and Breast Reconstruction. All of the cancer audits are commissioned by the Healthcare Commission and have funding until 2009.

The ultimate purpose of the audits is to improve standards of care for patients and clinical outcome. This will be achieved by comparing case-mix adjusted outcomes between NHS organisations to identify areas of best practice and to facilitate the spread of this via clinical audit

### **Purpose of toolkit**

The purpose of the audit toolkit is to help trusts improve the standards of care provided for their patients. The trust should have already submitted data to the audit and this will have been analysed and published in either the annual report or local feedback reports received by your trust. The purpose of the LAP is to assist in the identification of areas of performance that are weak and to help facilitate improvement in these areas by closing the audit cycle loop.

### **Process of LAP**

One of the key outputs for the National Cancer Audits is to provide trusts with local action plans. NCASP intend to provide the LAP purely as a toolkit to facilitate service improvement. The implementation of this is the remit of the hospitals, trusts and networks concerned. The identification of weak areas and subsequent improvement should be monitored internally and will be measured via the Peer Review process, Annual Healthcheck and Strategic Health Authorities. However the audit databases and the reports generated from them can be used to monitor this as any improvement to care should be reflected by improved performance in the audit reporting mechanisms

### **How to use the toolkit**

There are 3 sections to the toolkit:

Section 1 - participation

Section 2 - process measures

Section 3 - clinical measures.

### **Standards**

The 'standards' against which local performance should be measured are either the current national medians for a particular indicator or based on consensus expert opinion.

Whilst the key recommendations that are of national concern have been entered into the Local Action Plan, trusts should consider their own local performance and identify which or these are pertinent to their own practice. Furthermore any issues of local concern that can be supported by the audit should be added to the plan.

**The LAP and local and national clinical governance arrangements**

The LAP for the national clinical audits should be incorporated into the organisation's local clinical governance process to be used as a means for ensuring that the recommendations made have been read, discussed and actioned at a local level. It is good practice to make the Local Action Plan available to support the Annual Health Check and Peer Review processes. It can also be used as evidence of clinical audit within the consultant appraisal process.

**Template**

Please see the attached document

**More information**

If you need further help or advice on using the audit toolkit please contact the IC Contact Centre

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