



# National Respiratory Audit Programme (NRAP)

Jargon Buster

Version 1: August 2024

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## Overview

We've created a Jargon Buster to help people who are new to the National Respiratory Audit Programme (NRAP) to understand some of the words, terms and acronyms that might be used in meetings or found in the materials we send you. There are lots of terms that are and aren't included here, so please don't feel embarrassed to ask what something means. Someone else in the room will most likely be thinking the same thing!

We'd like to acknowledge Asthma + Lung UK for helping write the original NACAP Jargon Buster.

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### Asthma + Lung UK

A charity that promoted better understanding, research, treatment and support for people with lung conditions. They provide expert advice and support, fund research and campaign nationally.

### Benchmarking

A method used to allow services to compare the care that they are providing with other hospitals and services, and the national average. An example of a measurement is: % of people reviewed by a respiratory specialist within 24 hours.

### BPT (Best Practice Tariff)

A financial incentive for hospitals in England to improve the quality of care provided for certain conditions. A BPT is currently available for adult asthma and COPD. English trusts receive top-up funds if at least 50% of patients in hospital for asthma are reviewed by a specialist within 24 hours of arrival and receive a discharge bundle before leaving hospital. For COPD, trusts receive top-up funds if at least 60% of patients in hospital with COPD are reviewed by a specialist within 24 hours and receive a discharge bundle before leaving hospital.



### **British Paediatric Respiratory Society (BPRS)**

An organisation that promotes respiratory health of children including those with respiratory disease. Members of the society are healthcare professionals that work in paediatric medicine.<sup>1</sup>

### **BTS (British Thoracic Society)**

The charity and membership organisation that aims to improve standards of care for patients with respiratory disease, improve lung health and provide professional support to doctors, nurses, respiratory physiotherapists, scientists and other professionals with a respiratory interest.<sup>2</sup>

### **Case ascertainment**

Case ascertainment in NRAP means the percentage of patients entered into the audit compared to the total number of patients that were eligible to be included in the audit. For example, if a hospital sees 100 patients for an asthma attack, but only enters 10 patients into the audit, then the case ascertainment for the hospital is 10%.

### **Clinical audit dataset**

A clinical audit dataset (a list of questions) asks questions specifically about how a patient was treated (for example, in hospital). A clinical dataset might include questions such as 'Did the patient see a respiratory specialist?' and 'What treatment was the patient given when they arrived at hospital?'

### **Continuous audit**

A continuous audit is used to support an ongoing cycle of improvement in services. The length of continuous audits varies. For NRAP, the COPD, adult asthma, children and young people's asthma, and pulmonary rehabilitation clinical audits, will be continuous until the audit is not commissioned.

### **Co-morbidities**

A co-morbidity is one or more conditions or diseases that a person has in addition to another (main) condition or disease. The two or more conditions or diseases 'coexist' with each other.<sup>3</sup>

### **CQC (Care Quality Commission)**

This organisation independently regulates health services.<sup>4</sup>



### **Crown (Crown Informatics)**

The company that runs and maintains the NRAP online webtool ([www.nrap.org.uk](http://www.nrap.org.uk)). Crown Informatics provide technical support to the NRAP audit team and to webtool users.

### **Data linkage**

In NRAP, data linkage describes the joining together of different information sources about patients. Connecting data in this way can lead to new insights and discoveries and reduce the need for additional data collection. For instance, when we join-up two different datasets we may find out that patients who receive better care in hospital are less likely to return to hospital within a set number of days.<sup>5</sup>

### **Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW)**

The organisation that works with NHS Wales organisations to deliver technology and digital services in line with their strategic mission to expand the use of digital to improve health and care. DHCW carries out the primary care audit extraction (copying of patient information from Welsh GP surgery computers) for NRAP.<sup>6</sup>

### **Declarations of Interest**

A form called a 'Declaration of Interests' is used in NRAP to make sure that all decisions and activities carried out by NRAP group members are done in the best interests of the programme and not for any personal interests which may negatively impact the programme.

### **Discharge bundles**

In respiratory care, discharge bundles refer to a checklist that shows the elements of care that need to take place before a patient leaves hospital. The checklist includes reviewing patient inhaler technique, being assessed for support to stop smoking, and exercise therapy (pulmonary rehabilitation) referrals.

### **Exacerbation**

In COPD, an exacerbation is a worsening of symptoms. It is also sometimes called a flare-up.

### **Extraction (in primary care)**

In NRAP, extraction refers to the copying of patient information from GP surgery computers in Wales for the primary care audit. Staff at the GP surgery don't add information onto an audit web-tool like hospital staff do; instead,



information is automatically 'extracted' from the computer systems of participating GP surgeries.

### **Governance structure**

In NRAP, the governance structure refers to each of the groups that will discuss audit activities and make decisions for the audit programme. They include: NRAP Board, NRAP Patient Panel, Adult Asthma Advisory Group, COPD Advisory Group, Children and Young People's Asthma Advisory Group, Pulmonary Rehabilitation Advisory Group, and NRAP Research Committee.

### **Health Equity**

Equity is the absence of unfair and avoidable differences among groups of people. Health equity refers to the removal of inequalities in healthcare, and is achieved when everyone can equally attain their full potential for health and well-being.<sup>7</sup>

### **HES (Health Episode Statistics)**

A database that contains the details of all hospital admissions, A&E attendances and outpatient appointments in NHS hospitals in England.<sup>8</sup>

### **HQIP (Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership)**

The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership is an independent organisation which promotes quality in healthcare, particularly through clinical audit. NRAP is funded by HQIP to deliver our audit.<sup>9</sup>

### **ICL (Imperial College London)**

Imperial College London is the university that will analyse all of the NRAP audit data for reporting.

### **Integrated care boards (ICBs)**

These are NHS organisations responsible for developing a plan for meeting the health needs of an area's population, managing the NHS budget, and arranging for the provision of health services in the ICS area. ICBs replaced Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in the NHS in England from 1 July 2022.<sup>10</sup>

### **ICSs**

Integrated care systems (ICSs) are partnerships of organisations that come together to plan and deliver joined up health and care services, and to improve the lives of people who live and work in their area. The partnerships involve the NHS, local councils, community and voluntary



organisations, local residents, people who use services, their carers and representatives, and other community partners.<sup>11</sup>

### **Information Governance (IG)**

The term is used to describe how information is handled and managed by an organisation. In healthcare, this refers to ensuring patient information is stored safely and securely as well as ensuring identifiable information is seen only by authorised individuals.<sup>12</sup>

### **National data opt-out (NDOO)**

A service that was introduced on 25 May 2018 to allow individuals to opt-out of their confidential NHS patient information being selected for use in research or planning activities, also including opt-out from audits.

### **NHS number**

All individuals registered with the NHS in England, Wales and the Isle of Man have a unique patient identifier. NHS numbers are classed as confidential patient information.

### **NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence)**

Provides evidence-based guidance and other products to help resolve uncertainty about which medicines, treatments, procedures and devices represent the best quality of care and that offer the best value for money for the NHS.<sup>13</sup>

### **NIV (non-invasive ventilation)**

Some people who have difficulty breathing may benefit from using a breathing machine called a ventilator. NIV doesn't require a tube to be put into the person's windpipe. Instead, they wear a mask over their nose and/or mouth, which is attached to an air pump that pushes slightly pressurised air through. This allows the person to get enough oxygen into their lungs.<sup>14</sup>

### **NRAP (National Respiratory Audit Programme)**

NRAP is an audit which looks at the quality of care and services provided to people with respiratory conditions across the care pathway.

### **ONS (Office for National Statistics)**

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects information about the UK economy, society and population. In NRAP, ONS data will be used to



link audit data with date and cause of death data.<sup>15</sup>

### **Organisational audit dataset**

An organisational dataset is an audit dataset (a list of questions) that asks specifically about how the organisation where patients are treated is run. An organisational dataset might include questions such as *'How many respiratory nurses does your hospital have?'* and *'How many people were referred to your service for pulmonary rehabilitation in the last financial year?'*

### **Parity of Esteem**

Parity of esteem describes the need to value mental health equally to physical health.<sup>16</sup>

### **PPIE (public and patient involvement and engagement)**

PPIE refers to the process of involving patients and the public in activities to support the design and development of projects that are for public and patient benefit.

### **PREMs (Patient-Reported Experience Measures)**

PREMs refers to information collected on patients' experiences whilst receiving care, either in hospital or in the community. PREMs are

usually collected by asking patients to complete questionnaires.

### **PROMs (Patient-Reported Outcome Measures)**

PROMs refers to information collected on the patient's opinion or 'perception' of their health status and quality of life. PROMs also include patient perceptions on specific impairments or disabilities. Questionnaires are provided to patients before and after a clinical procedure/treatment. These are used to understand whether a procedure/treatment was beneficial and safe from the point of view of the patient.

### **Primary care**

Primary care is the first point of contact with the NHS for most people and refers to services provided by GP practices, dentists, community pharmacies and high street optometrists. About 90 percent of people's contact with the NHS is with these services.

### **PR (Pulmonary rehabilitation)\***

This is a course of treatment for people with long-term lung conditions designed to help them cope with breathlessness and feel stronger at the same time. It usually includes a personalised



physical exercise programme and advice on lung health and coping with breathlessness.

#### **PR accreditation (Pulmonary Rehabilitation Services Accreditation Scheme - PRSAS)**

PR accreditation refers to the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Services Accreditation Scheme (PRSAS). The scheme allows services that provide pulmonary rehabilitation the ability to become 'accredited'. If a service becomes 'accredited' this means they have been recognised to meet a set of standards required to provide a high-quality service to patients.

#### **Healthcare quality improvement (HI)**

In healthcare, this means the process by which teams/organisations set agreed goals to improve an area(s) of care and measure any improvement(s) in care delivered.

#### **RCP (Royal College of Physicians)**

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) is a clinically-led registered charity. The RCP works to improve the diagnosis of disease and care of patients, in particular through education and training for clinicians. A number of nationally funded audits, including NRAP, are run by teams at the RCP.

#### **RCPCH (Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health)**

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) is a registered charity that works to improve child health through education and career support for paediatricians. RCPCH is also involved in programmes spanning healthcare (quality) improvement, clinical audits, research and global child health programmes.

#### **Read Codes**

A coded 'thesaurus' of clinical terms used by clinical staff to record information about a patient's diagnosis and treatment procedures on IT systems across primary and secondary care.

#### **Real-time reporting**

In NRAP, real-time reporting refers to the ongoing, up-to-date presentation of audit data to hospital teams in graphs on the NRAP audit web-tool.

#### **Reporting**

In NRAP, reporting refers to the different types of ways the audit results will be displayed for different audiences.



### **Risk register**

The NRAP risk register is an Excel document which lists all the potential and actual risks which may impact the performance of NRAP in delivering its work. The risk register details how these 'risks' can be avoided and reduced.

### **Secondary care**

Also known as acute health care, secondary care is provided by hospitals, specialist clinics and other health care professionals who typically don't have first contact with patients. It can be either emergency care (provided at an accident and emergency unit (A&E), for example) or elective care (planned specialist medical or surgery, usually after a referral from a primary care or community health professional such as a GP).

### **Section 251**

Section 251 is a short-hand term which refers to Section 251 of the National Health Service Act and its current Regulations, the Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002. The NRAP audit has Section 251 'approval'. This allows for confidential patient information to be collected for all audits without the need for patient consent (the data controller must still

comply with all other relevant legal duties such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act)).

### **Snapshot audit**

A snapshot audit is one that is hosted for a set period of time, usually longer than a continuous audit. Only information that is collected during the set timeframe will be analysed and reported on as the audit is reporting on what is happening at that particular time point. For NRAP, the COPD, adult asthma, paediatric asthma and pulmonary rehabilitation organisational audits are all snapshot audits.

### **Spirometry**

This is a type of breathing test to assess how well your lungs work. Spirometry measures your 'forced expiratory volume in one second' (FEV1) – how much air you can breathe out from your lungs in the first second of breathing out. It can help tell whether your breathing is obstructed by narrowing of the bronchial tubes, as found in asthma and COPD. 'Post-bronchodilator' spirometry refers to when this breathing test is done after someone has had two puffs of the inhaler they use to relieve their symptoms (a bronchodilator medication).

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### **Stakeholders**

Any individual, group or organisation that has an interest in NACAP and its work, or should be made aware of the audit programme.

### **Strategy**

A set of intended actions which are planned to achieve a set of goals or targets for NRAP.

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- <sup>1</sup> British Paediatric Respiratory Society. *About the BPRS*. [Online] Available from: <https://www.bprs.co.uk/about-the-bprs/> [Accessed September 2023].
- <sup>2</sup> British Thoracic Society (BTS). *British Thoracic Society (BTS)* [Online] Available from: <https://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/> [Accessed September 2023].
- <sup>3</sup> British Lung Foundation. *British Lung Foundation Patient Handbook, Your guide to getting your voice heard*. pp. 28-30.
- <sup>4</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>5</sup> Office for National Statistics. *Developing standard tools for data linkage: February 2021*. [Online] Available from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/methodologicalpublications/generalmethodology/onsworkingpaperseries/developingstandardtoolsfordatalinkagefebruary2021> [Accessed September 2023]
- <sup>6</sup> Digital Health and Care Wales. *About Digital Health and Care Wales*. [Online] Available from: <https://dhcw.nhs.wales/about-us/> [Accessed September 2023].
- <sup>7</sup> World Health Organization. *Health Equity*. [Online] Available from [https://www.who.int/health-topics/health-equity#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/health-equity#tab=tab_1) [Accessed September 2023].
- <sup>8</sup> NHS Digital. *Health Episode Statistics (HES)*. [Online] Available from <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-tools-and-services/data-services/hospital-episode-statistics> [Accessed September 2023]
- <sup>9</sup> Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership. *About Us: Measuring and improving our healthcare services*. [Online]. Available from: <https://www.hqip.org.uk/about-us/> [Accessed September 2023].
- <sup>10</sup> NHS England. *What are integrated care systems?*. [Online] Available from <https://www.england.nhs.uk/integratedcare/what-is-integrated-care/> [Accessed September 2023]
- <sup>11</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>12</sup> NHS England. *About information governance*. [Online] Available from: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ig/about/> [Accessed September 2023].
- <sup>13</sup> British Lung Foundation. *British Lung Foundation Patient Handbook, Your guide to getting your voice heard*. pp. 28-30
- <sup>14</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>15</sup> Office for National Statistics. *About us*. [Online] Available from: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus> [Accessed September 2023].
- <sup>16</sup> Royal College of Nursing. *Parity of Esteem*. [Online] Available from <https://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/Mental-Health/Parity-of-esteem#:~:text=Parity%20of%20esteem%20describes%20the,people%20with%20physical%20health%20needs>. [Accessed September 2023]