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New report shows a majority of cataract surgery centres are delivering high quality care for patients in England and Wales

The first prospective annual report of the National Ophthalmology Database Audit

The first prospective National Ophthalmology Database (NOD) Audit report on cataract surgery in England and Wales looked at 120,722 cataract operations undertaken between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 by 55 English and 1 Welsh NHS cataract surgical centres.

The report shows that cataract surgery centres are delivering high quality care to their patients. This is one of the most frequently performed surgeries in the UK with approximately 390,000 cataract operations performed in England and 16,000 performed in Wales each year, restoring sight for patients and enabling them to retain independent living.

A total of 97,908 adult patients were reported to have had an eligible cataract procedure from participating NHS trusts and the Welsh Health Board during the audit period. Participating centres' and surgeons' outcomes were found to be within the nationally acceptable statistical range for the audit year. Some variations in outcomes were identified, suggesting possible room for improvement. The data completeness was 100% for the Posterior Capsular Rupture (PCR) outcome though less so for the Visual Acuity Loss outcome, an area for active improvement. Overall, for both outcomes the observed rates were better than the current benchmark standards for surgical practice.

The NOD Audit is an opportunity to benchmark the quality of cataract surgery provision and is intended to help draw the attention of trusts to possible elements of cataract care which may require development. The audit does not cover all centres so we are unable to comment on the quality of surgery at centres that are yet to join.

Areas for improved data collection have been highlighted such as ensuring data completeness of pre-operative visual acuity and post-operative visual acuity outcome are improved at some centres. Improvements to data collection and validation will be facilitated over the coming year so the next output of data reporting will be more robust and further improve the quality of cataract surgery provision.

Professor John Sparrow, Consultant Ophthalmologist at Bristol Eye Hospital and Clinical Lead for the audit, commented, *'Results from the first phase of prospectively collected data from this national audit of cataract surgery are encouraging. In most centres data completeness and accuracy appear to be good, giving confidence in the findings that the quality of service delivery overall is within expectation.'*

Patients, commissioners, providers and surgeons will be able to view outcomes for participating centres with results of individual consultant surgeons being made available in due course on the [NHS Choices website](#) and the [NOD audit website](#).

The audit is currently collecting data for the second prospective audit period which will run from 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 and will include more centres in England and Wales.

Professor Sparrow continued, *'We believe that transparency of these data will drive improvements and help patients and the public understand the risks involved in cataract surgery. Better informed patients will be more aware of the need to engage with their consultants to ensure an optimum outcome for their sight.'*

The National Ophthalmology Database Audit was delivered by The Royal College of Ophthalmologists and commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) as part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes programme (NCAPOP).

[Read the full report here](#)

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Notes to Editors

The National Ophthalmology Database Audit has been funded by the NHS England and the Welsh Government. The contract period of the audit is 1 September 2014 – 31 August 2017 with the possibility of a further 2-year extension.

All eligible cataract surgical centres, NHS trusts and Welsh Health Boards have been invited to participate in the cataract audit. In this audit report, the risk adjusted rate for the complication of posterior capsule rupture or vitreous prolapse or both (PCR) during surgery, and the risk adjusted rate of Visual acuity (VA) loss from before to after surgery was reported on. The benchmark values of 2.0% for PCR and 1.5% for VA Loss were used to assess the participating centres.

About The Royal College of Ophthalmologists

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth) is the professional body for eye doctors, who are medically qualified and have undergone or are undergoing specialist training in the

treatment and management of eye disease, including surgery. As an independent charity, we pride ourselves on providing impartial and clinically based evidence, putting patient care and safety at the heart of everything we do. Ophthalmologists are at the forefront of eye health services because of their extensive training and experience. RCOphth is not a regulatory body, but works collaboratively with government, health and partner organisations to recommend and support improvements in the coordination and management of eye care both nationally and regionally. www.rcophth.ac.uk

About HQIP, the National Clinical Audit Programme and how it is funded

HQIP is led by a consortium of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, the Royal College of Nursing and National Voices. Its aim is to promote quality improvement, and in particular to increase the impact that clinical audit has on healthcare in England and Wales. HQIP holds the contract to manage and develop the National Clinical Audit Programme, comprising more than 30 clinical audits that cover care provided to people with a wide range of medical, surgical and mental health conditions. The programme is funded by NHS England, the Welsh Government and, with some individual audits, also funded by the Health Department of the Scottish government, DHSSPS Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands. www.hqip.org.uk

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