



NACEL Update 26/11/2025

NACEL 2025 data collection:

- There are currently 166 organisations registered to participate in NACEL 2025, with 237 submissions for acute/community hospitals.
- Data collection for the audit is still open for two out of four elements: the Case Note Review and the Bereavement Survey.
 - The Annual death collection, a small collection to understand the number of deaths occurring within the hospital/site within the year and participation route for the Bereavement Survey, will open in January 2026 and close in February 2026.
 - The Hospital/Site Overview collection closed on 30th September 2025.
- The participation levels are shown next to NACEL 2024 for comparison:

	NACEL 2024	NACEL 2025 to date (06.11.2025)
Case Note Review returned	20,954	15,590
Bereavement Survey returned	7,354	5,211
Hospital/Site Overview returned	238	230

NACEL Updates

- Published the 2024 State of the Nations Report alongside a suite of supporting documents.
 - www.nacel.nhs.uk/outputs
- Released the Patient and Carer Tool and began scoping the next phase of development to incorporate hospital and site level data.
- Presented NACEL insights at major national and international events, including the International Collaborative for Best Care for the Dying Person and the British Geriatrics Society.
- Dr Mary Miller recorded a podcast episode with Dr Clare Fuller exploring Advance Care Planning.
 - www.nacel.nhs.uk/news
- Submitted evidence to the DHSC for the 10-Year Workforce Plan review and contributed to the second report of the Commission on Palliative Care.
- Hosted a Quality Improvement (QI) webinar to discuss key findings and recommendations, attended by 153 participants.
- Enhanced the NACEL Portal, improving navigation and access to Quality Improvement resources.
 - www.nacel.nhs.uk/qi-about
- Launched NACEL 2026 data collection.

QI Offer

- QI remains a key priority for NACEL, and the team is progressing a range of initiatives to help Trusts, Health Boards, and ICBs use NACEL data effectively to drive QI activity and strengthen end-of-life care.
- All data is reported via the NACEL Data and Improvement Tool (DIT).
 - This tool holds the benchmarked results from the audit in a clear and user-friendly way, reporting performance against ten primary drivers for improving the quality of care at the end of life.
 - Data can be shared & compared between Trusts and ICB/S's.
 - Accessible to participating organisations and relevant commissioners.
- Key indicator data shared with CQC to support local inspection packs.



Engagement and Outputs

- To date, there have been 98,000 visits to the NACEL Portal.
- The QI events have reached around 1,517 participants, with 80% of NACEL organisations (135 in total) engaging in at least one QI event.
- DIT - 220 organisations have access to the Tool. Users from 55 ICBs have access.
- The Good Practice Compendium showcases 68 examples of innovation and improvement in end-of-life care, designed to support Trusts in sharing learning. It has had 689 visits to date.
 - www.nacel.nhs.uk/good-practice-compendium
- Colleagues are encouraged to create an account and post an introduction on the [Community of Practice](#) end of life care page to increase engagement.

NACEL 2025

Reporting

- The NACEL 2025 national report is currently being drafted, and the Steering Group were consulted on the proposed key themes and recommendations.
- As much as possible, the report will align with the 2024 report and recommendations to ensure consistency and to allow sufficient time for providers and commissioners to embed and monitor progress.
- The 2025 report will also introduce time-series charts to track changes over time, along with case studies from participating organisations to highlight examples of quality improvement in practice.
- Statistical analysis has been carried out to understand whether there are significant differences in care experiences between patients from different ethnic groups. These findings will inform the narrative of the report and support the recommendations.

Mental Health Spotlight Audit:

- There are currently 58 organisations registered to participate.
- Data collection for the audit is still open for two out of four elements: the Case Note Review and the Staff Reported Measure.
 - The Annual death collection will open in January 2026 and close in February 2026.
 - The Trust/Health Board overview collection closed on 30th September 2025.
- Spotlight Audit findings to be uploaded into the Data and Improvement Tool (Launch Feb'26)
- Data collection is going well, with the Case Note Review and Trust/Health Board overview already surpassing 2021's figures. We suspect the Staff Reported Measure numbers to match this trend. The participation levels are shown next to NACEL 2021 for comparison:

	NACEL MH 2021	NACEL MH to date (18.11.2025)
Case Note Reviews returned	75	93
Staff Reported Measures returned	481	450
Trust/Health Board Overviews returned	46	53

Next Steps

- The next Steering Group meeting will be held on Wednesday, 25th February 2026, 11:00 – 13:00 with a focus on:
 - Discussing State of the Nations Reports (A/C + MH)
 - Updates on Management of Outlier analysis
 - Updates on QI programme for the year
 - Discussing publicly available data