



NACEL Update – 25/02/26

NACEL 2025

Data collection

All NACEL 2025 audit elements have now closed for data collection. Most recently, the Annual Death Data Collection element closed on 28th February. The data is now undergoing a final cleanse and will be finalised by the end of March.

Participation figures:

Audit element	Acute and Community	Mental Health Spotlight
Case Note Review	19,708 (97%)	179 (68%)
Bereavement Survey	5,992 (66%)	Not collected
Staff Reported Measure	Not collected	597 (75%)
Organisational Overview	232 (98%)	54 (95%)

The above table displays the total number received for each element, with the percentage of organisation submissions that contributed data to this element shown in brackets.

Reporting

The State of the Nations reports for Acute and Community and the Mental Health Spotlight Audit are in development and will be submitted to the commissioner, HQIP, by 10th April. The proposed publication date for the reports is 13th August 2026, subject to approval.

For Acute and Community:

- The NACEL Dashboards have been updated to include the full year’s data
- The Good Practice Compendium content is in review and will be published in April

For the Mental Health Spotlight Audit:

- National and local findings will be reported in the Data and Improvement Tool in March.

NACEL 2026

Data collection

- The Case Note Review and Bereavement Survey opened on 20th January
- The Staff Reported Measure will open for data collection on 1st April and will close on 30th June. The Hospital/Site Overview will not be collected in 2026.

Reporting

- The first release of data will be added to the Data and Improvement Tool and Dashboards in April. The data will be updated continuously throughout the year.

Contractual requirement to participate in NACEL

In England, under the refreshed [NHS Standard Contract](#), NHS providers are required to:

- 26.1.2.1 Participate in any national programme within the [National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme \(NCAPOP\)](#)



- 26.1.3 Make national clinical audit data available to support national publication of consultant-level activity and outcome statistics
- 26.1.4 Engage in national outlier identification and management processes, in line with published outlier guidance

The [Welsh Health Circular \(WHC\) for the National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review Plan](#) outlines that health boards and trusts in Wales are required to fully participate in audits and outcome reviews listed in the annual plan.

To reduce the burden of participating in the audit, the NACEL team continues to review and streamline its approaches to data collection and reporting – further information can be found here: www.nacel.nhs.uk/news/reducing-data-burden-in-nacel-2026-wnkbk

NACEL 2026 QI Programme

The 4 main outputs produced by NACEL are:

1. Data and Improvement Tool
2. Good Practice Compendium (www.nacel.nhs.uk/good-practice-compendium)
 - The Good Practice Compendium brings together examples of innovation and improvement shared by Trusts/Health Boards through NACEL. **2025 data will be added to the GPC in April 2026.**
3. State of the Nations Reports
4. Quality Improvement webinars
 - The next webinar, focusing on Equitable Care, will take place on 23rd April, 12-1.30pm. Register here: www.nacel.nhs.uk/events/qi-webinar-equitable-care-april-26

For further information about the ways NACEL has contributed to quality improvement work in participating organisations and more widely, visit the Impact Compendium and read the most recent Impact Report: www.nacel.nhs.uk/impact-compendium

NACEL Public Facing Tool

NHS Benchmarking Network are required to create an **interactive platform** with **unvetted access** to the NACEL data. This view is intended to allow casual users, with an interest in care at the end of life, to use the audit data without needing a login.

- Phase 1 displays regional/national data for 5 metrics. It was published in **August 2025**. View here: www.nacel.nhs.uk/patients-and-carers-data
- Phase 2 will display hospital-level data for these metrics. It was developed in consultation with clinical and non-clinical professionals and in collaboration with bereaved people. It will be published in **August 2026**. Information about the release of this data will be shared with key stakeholders at a national, system and Trust/Health Board level. Read more here: www.nacel.nhs.uk/news/patient-and-carer-tool-information

Upcoming meetings

The next Steering Group meeting will take place on Thursday, 9th July 2026.