



# NNHLA

## National Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma Audit

NNHLA, Clinical Effectiveness Unit

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## NNHLA Newsletter, Autumn 2023

### Want to find out more?

The NNHLA is part of the National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre (NATCAN). If you want to find out more about NATCAN visit our [new website](#). If you would like to receive regular updates send us an email [NATCAN@rcseng.ac.uk](mailto:NATCAN@rcseng.ac.uk)

### NNHLA convenes its first Clinical Reference Group

In September, the National Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma Audit (NNHLA) held its first Clinical Reference Group (CRG) meeting, which convened to discuss the scope and design of the NNHLA. The meeting was expertly chaired by [Lymphoma Action's](#) Chief Executive, Ropinder Gill.

The group includes representation from: non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL) related cancer charities ([Lymphoma Action](#) and [Blood Cancer UK](#)), [NHS England](#), [NHS Wales](#), and a range of clinical disciplines including: nursing, oncology, haematology, and radiology.

Patient representatives provided valuable insights from a patient and carer perspective. The clinical members brought their specialist expertise and played an important role in providing a range of professional views on the direction and activities of the audit.

Look out for the audit's finalised 'Scoping document' which will be published on our [web pages](#) in November. This describes the clinical scope of the audit in terms of the patient population and parts of the care pathway that will be covered. It also outlines potential areas for quality improvement. Our next task as an audit team is to develop five quality improvement goals and key performance indicators for annual and quarterly reporting. These goals and indicators will be published in our Healthcare Improvement Plan on our [web pages](#), in early 2024.

### Patient & Public Involvement

Patient involvement is central to everything we do. We are determined to give patients and carers a greater voice at every stage of the process and we are working with Lymphoma Action and Blood Cancer UK, to create a PPI forum for our audit. These patients will help ensure that the questions we ask are appropriate, and that we are reporting information in ways that are useful and accessible to patients and the public, as well as to health care professionals.

Ropinder Gill, Chief Executive of the charity, Lymphoma Action (LA), shares with us, exactly why incorporating the voices of patients in our work is so important, "We're delighted that this audit is taking place to improve outcomes for people with non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Not only will it be the most robust and thorough audit of NHL clinical data in England and Wales, but there will also be a strong emphasis on the patient voice. One of LA's key goals, in addition to providing information and support, is to raise awareness and make sure that people affected by lymphoma can influence the decisions that affect them. We do this through a variety of ways from taking part in health technology assessments to running signs and symptoms campaigns like we did throughout Blood Cancer Awareness Month. This is also why we're delighted to be a part of this audit and to support the audit's patient involvement forum, so that those

affected by NHL are front and centre of this important project". You can learn more about Lymphoma Action's policy work and support services on our website, [www.lymphoma-action.org.uk](http://www.lymphoma-action.org.uk).



### FAQ - How is patient data being collected?

The NNHLA will not ask hospitals to collect any new patient data. Therefore, there is no need for NHS organisations to input data on patients through a separate data collection portal. This is similar to the approach used by the [National Prostate Cancer Audit \(NPCA\)](#) and the [National Lung Cancer Audit \(NLCA\)](#).

All [NATCAN](#) cancer audits will utilise the nationally mandated flows of data from hospitals to the [National Disease Registration Service \(NDRS\)](#) in [NHS England](#) and the [Wales Cancer Network](#) in Public Health Wales. In the coming months, each [NATCAN](#) audit will provide information on the key data items in these datasets for each cancer site. We encourage hospitals to check these data items are being completed and submitted regularly to [NDRS](#) or the [Wales Cancer Network](#).

### Blood Cancer Awareness Month

October was Blood Cancer Awareness month and in close collaboration with our colleagues at [Lymphoma Action](#) and [Blood Cancer UK](#), the NNHLA team were pleased to be part of an active online social media campaign that focused on raising awareness of blood cancers (including Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma). The NNHLA played its part, by sharing a number of postings which used the hashtag, [#BloodCancerAwarenessMonth](#).

Many thanks to everyone who was involved in some way, whether it was providing quotes, 'liking' or 'retweeting' posts and we express our 'huge' congratulations to both of our charities for their wonderful and inspiring work in raising awareness of these conditions.



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