

Impact of NKCA



NKCA
National Kidney
Cancer Audit



HQIP
Healthcare Quality
Improvement Partnership

NATIONAL

Evidence of national improvements in the quality and outcomes of care

The NKCA's first State of the Nation Report was published on 12th September 2024, reporting on eight performance indicators in England for the period 2017-2021, and four in Wales for 2022.

The report provided a baseline of kidney cancer care in England and Wales and highlighted variation in care within both countries across most of the performance indicators assessed.

The report also proposed five recommendations linked to the audit's pre-established quality improvement goals which would improve the care received by patients in England and Wales.

The report is available here:
<https://www.natcan.org.uk/reports/nkca-state-of-the-nation-report-2024/>

The NKCA has published three quarterly reports, focusing on data completeness of key data items. The most recent report, in October 2024, included the performance indicator *"Percentage of people who receive treatment for kidney cancer that receive their first treatment within 31 days of decision to treat"*. Clinical contacts at each Trust are sent the reports and encouraged to review their performance and improve it if necessary.

The report is available here:
<https://www.natcan.org.uk/reports/nkca-quarterly-report-april-2021-to-march-2024-published-october-2024/>

SYSTEM

How the project supports policy development & management of the system

In November 2023, the NKCA published their Scoping Document. Developed in close collaboration with stakeholders, represented by the Clinical Reference Group, it outlined the areas of kidney cancer care included, described the approach used to develop the audit's scope, specified which data sources used and provided the basis for the Quality Improvement Plan.
<https://www.natcan.org.uk/reports/nkca-scoping-document/>

The NKCA Team are collaborating with the kidney cancer NICE guideline development team by sharing audit findings and data. Stakeholders are also working across both groups to align audit reporting with planned guideline topics.

Findings from the NKCA's first State of the Nation were disseminated at several national meetings with both oncological and urological audiences:

- British Uro-oncology Group (BUG) Annual Meeting
- British Association of Urological Surgeons (BAUS) Section of Oncology Annual Meeting
- National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre (NATCAN) Key Findings Webinar

Data completeness is key to the work of the audit so the NKCA presented at the Cancer Outcomes and Services Dataset (COSD) Roadshows (Jan-Feb 2024) as well as the National MDT coordinator network meeting and published COSD key data items <https://www.natcan.org.uk/resources/key-cosd-data-items-2023-2024/>

LOCAL

How the project stimulates quality improvement (QI)

In September 2024, the NKCA published their Quality Improvement Plan. This set out the scope, care pathway, and quality improvement goals of the audit. Aligned to these goals were the performance indicators which the NKCA reports on annually in the State of the Nation Report, or quarterly in the quarterly reports.

The QI Plan can be accessed here:
<https://www.natcan.org.uk/reports/nkca-quality-improvement-plan-2024/>

Providers in England and Wales are encouraged to review their data, published in the Data Tables and Data Viewer, made available alongside the State of the Nation, and identify areas of potential improvement:
<https://www.natcan.org.uk/reports/nkca-state-of-the-nation-report-2024/>

A Local Action Plan template is available for providers to assess their current performance against the five recommendations made by the NKCA in the State of the Nation Report and draw up any actions required.
<https://www.natcan.org.uk/reports/nkca-state-of-the-nation-report-2024/>

Since the NKCA was launched in April 2023, six Newsletters have been published and disseminated to a network of almost 300 stakeholders.
<https://www.natcan.org.uk/news/nkca-newsletter-november-2024/>

PUBLIC

How the project is used by the public and the demand for it

The NKCA Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forum was formed in early 2024 following a recruitment process in collaboration with patient charities Kidney Cancer UK (KCUC) and Action Kidney Cancer (AKC).

The PPI Forum has eleven members and met for the first time in September 2024 to review the findings from the State of the Nation with members of the NKCA's Project Team.

The PPI Forum provided feedback regarding their preferred format for the State of the Nation Patient and Public Report.

A primarily infographic-based Report was favoured and published in October 2024 and shared on the Action Kidney Cancer website.
<https://www.natcan.org.uk/reports/nkca-state-of-the-nation-patient-and-public-report-2024/>

<https://actionkidneycancer.org/national-kidney-cancer-audit-for-england-and-wales/>

Findings from the NKCA are shared on our Twitter/X page (@NKCA_NATCAN) and are shared by the main NATCAN feed, as well as other NATCAN audit pages.

Our charity stakeholders, Kidney Cancer UK and Action Kidney Cancer, also share the audit's work on social media and with their supporters.