



NKCA

National Kidney Cancer Audit

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Quality Improvement Intervention

Improving access to Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Care

Improving Access to Clinical Nurse Specialist Care
National Kidney Cancer Audit Quality Improvement Intervention

Why this matters

- Every patient with kidney cancer should receive care from a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS).
- CNSs improve patient experience, access to treatment, and outcomes.
- NKCA data shows variation in both CNS provision & recording of CNS contact across trusts.

Our Goals

- Increase the **proportion of patients receiving care from a CNS**.
- Improve the **completeness of CNS data** in Cancer Outcomes and Services Data set (COSD).
- Support trusts in identifying barriers and sharing solutions.

Key Indicators

1. Proportion of **patients** diagnosed with kidney cancer recorded as having **seen a CNS** (among those with a **completed** CNS record in COSD).
2. Data **completeness** for COSD CNS contact field (**CR2050 – CNS Indication Code**):

How will the National Kidney Cancer Audit team support trusts

- **Provide tailored feedback:** feedback to trusts about their performance data, with appropriate comparisons.
- **Share good practice:** working with our stakeholders (listed below), the audit will produce a catalogue of best practices and improvement activities to enhance CNS care and share this learning.
- **Support monitoring:** the audit will publish trust-level information on a quarterly basis to support monitoring of progress.

View your organisation's results on the NKCA dashboard:

Logos for Action Kidney Cancer, UKONS (Oncology Nursing Society), NICE, Kidney Cancer UK, and BA(N) (British Association of Renal Nurses).

The NKCA launched its **Quality Improvement (QI) Intervention** on 8th January 2026 with the aim of **improving access to CNS care** for people diagnosed with kidney cancer.

As part of this intervention, a **new performance indicator was added to the data dashboard: "Percentage of people diagnosed with kidney cancer that were seen by a clinical nurse specialist"** which currently spans the time period 01/07/2022-31/03/2025. Details about the methodology used to derive the results for this indicator are available on our data dashboard.

Briefly, we include results for providers whose data completeness for the COSD data item 'CR2050 CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST INDICATION CODE' was >70% over the time period reported on, for patients recorded as being diagnosed at that trust.

Data completeness of this data item is available by trust and Cancer Alliance on our data dashboard. Where providers are below the 70% threshold, which can be seen on the data quality (snapshot) section, **we encourage providers to review their COSD submissions.**

We encourage providers to download and share our supporting materials: **local action plan** and **checklist** to help trusts improve access to CNS care.

As part of the QI Intervention, the **NKCA has been working alongside NICE**, as the value of CNS care is reflected in both the draft NICE Quality Standards and in the draft NICE guidelines. **Final documents will be published on Thursday 19th March 2026.**

The importance of contact and support from a CNS also aligns with **one of the original quality improvement goals** from the **NKCA scoping document** published in November 2023 and stated: "to improve the overall experience of care for patients with kidney cancer, in particular the availability of specialist cancer nurses and the involvement of patients in decisions about their treatment."

Keep in touch

The NKCA will be moving away from posting updates on X so **please join us on Bluesky and LinkedIn** to receive news from the audit.

Please tell your colleagues about joining our mailing list for all NKCA related updates.

Welcome to Will

We were thrilled to be joined in December by **Will Cunningham, Data Scientist**. He is an epidemiologist by background with experience in antibiotic resistant infections and lifestyle factors associated with cardio-metabolic disease.

