National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre: NAoPri and NAoMe Clinical Co-lead (Medical Oncology)

We are seeking an enthusiastic Consultant Medical Oncologist who will provide clinical leadership for the National Audit of Primary Breast Cancer (NAoPri) and the National Audit of Metastatic Breast Cancer (NAoMe), working in partnership with the audits' other Clinical Leads – Professor Kieran Horgan (Clinical Lead, Surgery) and Professor David Dodwell (Clinical Lead, Clinical Oncology) – and the project team. The Co-lead provides one clinical session per week to advise on clinical aspects of both audits, liaise with the clinical community, champion the audits, and attend regular team meetings.

This role provides a unique opportunity to lead an established cancer audit based at the National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre (NATCAN) within the Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU), jointly run by the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCSEng) and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

A key role is to provide clinical leadership to both audit programmes, which includes identifying clinical audit priorities, defining and validating clinical performance indicators, and developing, implementing and evaluating quality improvement initiatives that are directly guided by the audits' findings.

A defining characteristic of the breast audits is that activities are informed by methodological development, clinical epidemiological studies identifying determinants of variation in practice and outcome, and health services research focusing on how the structure and organisation of the service influences the quality of care provided to patients with primary and metastatic breast cancer. Therefore, the ideal candidate can demonstrate experience at regional or national level, including healthcare performance assessment, methodological and epidemiological research, and quality improvement and implementation.

The audits are commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership and funded by NHS England and the Welsh Government.

The post is offered until 30.09.27. There is the potential for extension of the post as NATCAN will re-tender for the commissioning of the audits after this date, with the process to begin shortly. Employers will be reimbursed for one clinical session per week for the Clinical Co-lead (Medical Oncology) role. Informal enquiries regarding this post should be directed to Dr Julie Nossiter, Director of Operations, NATCAN (jnossiter@rcseng.ac.uk) and Robert Douce, Senior Project Manager (rdouce@rcseng.ac.uk). **Applications should be sent to breastcanceraudits@rcseng.ac.uk by [closing date] and include a letter detailing your reasons for applying for this position and a copy of your curriculum vitae. Interviews will take place on [interview date].**

Closing date: 30.10.2026

JOB DESCRIPTION

National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre – *NAoPri and NAoMe Co-clinical Lead (Medical Oncology)*

National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre
Evaluating and where necessary improving the treatment for cancer patients is a key priority for the NHS Cancer Programme, and the Quality Statement for Cancer Wales. NATCAN was commissioned for an initial three-year period by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership on behalf of NHS England and the Welsh government. NATCAN's contract has since been extended for a further two years, enabling the delivery of its ten cancer audits until September 2027.

NATCAN is part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP). NATCAN is home to all ten national cancer audits including bowel, breast (primary and metastatic), kidney, lung, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, oesophago-gastric, ovarian, pancreatic and prostate cancers.

NATCAN aims to:

1. Provide regular and timely evidence to cancer services of where patterns of care in England and Wales vary.
2. Support NHS services to identify the reasons for the variation in care in order to guide quality improvement initiatives.
3. Stimulate improvements in cancer detection, treatment and outcomes including survival.

From 1 October 2022, NATCAN has been delivered by the CEU at the RCSEng. The CEU is a collaboration between the RCSEng and the LSHTM.

NATCAN collaborates closely with professional groups, clinicians and patient charities to ensure that all relevant stakeholders inform the quality improvement goals of each audit. NATCAN has approximately 45 staff from a range of disciplines including statistics, data science, health services research, epidemiology, healthcare quality improvement and clinical audit management. It is led by Dr Julie Nossiter, Director of Operations, NATCAN; Prof David Cromwell, Director of the CEU and Professor of Health Services Research, LSHTM; Dr Kate Walker, Professor of Medical Statistics, LSHTM and Prof Jan van der Meulen, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, LSHTM. NATCAN is currently recruiting for our next Clinical Director.

NATCAN is a key source of information that supports various quality assessment and improvement activities, both at a local level (by NHS trusts and boards, Cancer Alliances, Integrated care Systems) and at a national level (e.g., CQC inspection and regulatory work). The activities of NATCAN and the individual audits will drive quality improvement across the country aiming to help cancer services reach the highest standards possible.

Clinical Effectiveness Unit

The work of the CEU involves carrying out national clinical audits, developing audit methodologies and producing evidence on clinical and cost effectiveness. An essential element of the CEU's strategy is that it considers audit

projects as e*pidemiological studies* of the quality of hospital care. Epidemiological methods are used to generate high quality evidence on the *processes* and *outcomes* of hospital care as well as on their *determinants.* Another important feature of the CEU's strategy is the emphasis it gives to joint clinical and methodological leadership.

NAoPri and NAoMe

NAoPri and NAoMe evaluate the quality of care received by patients with primary breast cancer (stages 0 to 3) and metastatic breast cancer (MBC; also known as secondary, advanced or stage 4 breast cancer), in England and Wales. The aim is to assess the organisation of cancer services as well as the diagnosis and staging process and the outcomes of treatment. The most recent NAoPri State of the Nation report and the NAoMe State of the Nation report, both published in 2025, present the most recent findings for patients diagnosed in 2020–2022. The breast audit Data Dashboards show results for individual provider organisations and cancer alliances in England and Wales, along with data quality and completeness updates.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Clinical Co-lead (*Medical Oncology*) will be contracted to provide one clinical session per week to the audits. This should be reflected in their main contract of employment, and NATCAN will reimburse the NHS employer for this work.

The Clinical Co-lead will:

- together with the audits' other Clinical Leads, provide the overall clinical direction for NAoPri and NAoMe by helping to define the audit questions and metrics that underpin each audit's Quality Improvement Strategy and Implementation Plan. This leadership role includes:
    - identifying clinical audit priorities
    - defining and validating clinical performance indicators
    - developing, implementing and evaluating quality improvement initiatives that are directly guided by the audits' findings.
    - Initiating research and development activities supporting methodological development, providing a better understanding of variation in practice and outcomes, and enhancing the impact of quality improvement initiatives
- provide the link between the audits and relevant professional bodies including the UK Breast Cancer Group (UKBCG) and the Association of Breast Surgery
- provide the project team and those responsible for the analysis of the data with a clinical interpretation of the audit outcomes
- contribute to the writing of the '*State of the Nation'* reports for NAoPri and NAoMe, ensuring they give the appropriate context and clinical interpretation of the results
- liaise with the clinical community and encourage engagement from NHS organisations and Cancer Alliances in England and Wales
- promote partnership working with relevant organisations including academic departments, Royal Colleges, the National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service and the Welsh Cancer Network
- attend the monthly project team meetings (via Teams or F2F as required)
- attend the audits' Audit Advisory Committee (AAC) meetings (via Teams, twice a year)

- attend the audits' Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forum meetings (via Teams, twice a year)
- attend the audit's quality improvement events, in person (up to twice a year)
- attend NATCAN's Board meeting, as required in person or via Teams (twice a year)
- respond in a timely manner to members of the NAoPri and NAoMe project team and staff members of NATCAN
- work with NATCAN's Clinical Director, Director of Operations and the audit team to ensure that the contract deliverables are met in accordance with NATCAN's contract with the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership.
- work with NATCAN's Clinical Director, Director of Operations and the audit team to ensure the consistent implementation of centre-wide strategy, policies, and clinical standards