

Turning Clinical Data in Quality Information

Since NOCA was established in 2012 through collaboration between RCSI and the Quality Improvement Division of the Health Service Executive (HSE), the Dept of Surgical Affairs continues to provide operational management to the NOCA Executive Team, Clinically Led by Mr Ken Mealy and Managed by Fiona Cahill. The growing team continues to work with multidisciplinary stakeholders beyond the discipline of surgery, from both public and independent hospitals, to ensure participation and engagement with NOCA's audit processes. Recommendations arising from NOCA audit output will be continually returned to individuals and hospitals via structured governance systems.

Over the last eighteen months, NOCA have achieved real progress in the areas of Major Trauma Audit (MTA) and the Irish Hip Fracture Database (IHFD), both of which are now well established in the collection and monitoring of data from trauma receiving hospitals nationwide. For the first time, Irish health decision makers will be in a position to use NOCA data to inform service delivery to the benefit of patients nationally. In addition, the design and development of an Irish National Orthopaedic Register (INOR) and a national ICU Audit are well advanced. Both projects are heavily reliant on ICT development and interfacing with existing hospital infrastructure. ICU Audit has just achieved live status in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital after a lengthy configuration and interfacing of the system. The NOCA Team are now working to bring University Hospital Limerick ICU to live audit status also.



The NOCA Governance Board, Chaired by Prof Conor O'Keane remains an independent voluntary Board, which oversees the design, establishment and implementation of sustainable clinical audit in agreed specialties. From its inception, NOCA identified that clinical audit in isolation, without the rigor of governance and action on output would be ineffective. For this reason the NOCA Team continue to work with hospital Quality and Patient Safety Committees, Clinical and Executive leads to ensure its audit output is interpreted and used to direct quality improvement to the benefit of patients.

In the last two years, NOCA have successfully tested original governance and escalation processes to the point where action from audit output can be measured. It is intended that the NOCA Team will build upon these structures and their established credibility to ensure as each audit stream is deployed that it is done to tested formulae. Providing feedback alone of audit output to individual clinicians or specialties will not guarantee quality improvement. NOCA aims to work to ensure output and findings are shared and actionable at individual, hospital and system wide levels.

NOCA is currently responsible for the operational deployment, management and national governance of:

- *Comparative Audit of Hospital Mortality (CAHM)– currently being deployed nationally*
- *Major Trauma Audit (MTA)*
- *Irish Hip Fracture Database (IHFD)*
- *National ICU Audit*
- *Irish National Orthopaedic Register (INOR)*

Further Information on: <https://www.noca.ie/>