



National Audit of Dementia

UPCARE: 1.00 Programme name - please do not change this field.*	National Audit of Dementia
1.01 Abbreviation	NAD
1.1 Contract status	Ongoing
1.2 Audit or non-audit	Audit
1.3 HQIP commissioned*	Yes
1.40 Programme unique identifier*	HQIP103
1.41 HQIP AD	JC
1.42 HQIP PM	NP
1.5 Lead organisation*	Royal College of Psychiatrists
1.6 Programme homepage*	https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/improving-care/ccqi/national-clinical-audits/national-audit-of-dementia
1.7 Programme summary	<p>NAD in General Hospitals</p> <p>NAD was initially established to measure the performance of general hospitals against criteria relating to care delivery which are known to impact people with dementia while admitted to a general acute hospital.</p> <p>These criteria (standards) are from national and professional guidance, including NICE Quality Standards and guidance, the Dementia Friendly Hospitals charter, and reports from the Alzheimer's Society, Age Concern and Royal Colleges.</p> <p>Up to round 4 of the audit data collection at patient level was carried out on the basis of retrospective sampling.</p> <p>Rounds 5 and 6 of the audit involved extensive changes to content and methodology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move to more rapid and regular reporting, enabling sites to gauge the effect of local quality improvement initiatives • Move to prospective identification of patients for sampling, to aid above

- Focus on areas where there is lower/variable performance and reduce the total number of items measured
- Examine methods for collecting feedback from patients as well as carers on an annual basis

After piloting, the audit was rolled out with these changes/ new content in September 2022.

Round 5 National Report was published in August 2023, and Round 6 National Report was published in December 2024.

NAD in Memory Assessment Services

In 2023 and 2024, NAD published reports on audits in community-based memory assessment services, focussing on waiting times, access to assessments, treatment and post diagnostic support for people with dementia. Tools and methodology were adapted with permission from the NHS London 2019 Audit in memory services.

2025-2027

Over this period NAD is working to redevelop audit in general hospitals, memory assessment services and other diagnostic services.

In 2025, NAD:

- worked closely with our Steering, Implementation, Lived Experience Advisory Groups and wider networks to identify healthcare priorities and audit metrics
- supported participating services with quality improvement activities based on previous audit findings
- evaluated approaches to collecting meaningful feedback from people living with dementia and their carers.

This work has shaped the new Healthcare Quality Improvement Plans, audit metrics frameworks, and all activities planned for 2026.

In 2026, the National Audit of Dementia (NAD) begins the second phase of its three-year redesign programme.

Audit in Dementia Diagnostic Services is planned for 2026, with data on key metrics in Memory Assessment Services drawn from the Mental Health Services Dataset in England and DHCW data in Wales. There will also be trial and evaluation of data collection from people living with dementia/ carers.

General hospitals will participate in developmental activities, trialling the Annual Census Day approach to identifying the number of hospital inpatients living with dementia and spot check audits, and trying out different time periods for data collection from patients and carers.

2.1 Organogram

[https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rcpsych.ac.uk%2Fdocs%2Fdefault-source%2Fimproving-care%2Fccqi%2Fnational-clinical-audits%2Fnational-audit-of-dementia%2Fnad-round-7-\(2025-2027\)%2Frcpsych-nad-organogram-20260107.docx%3Fsfvrsn%3D633ec1f1_5&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rcpsych.ac.uk%2Fdocs%2Fdefault-source%2Fimproving-care%2Fccqi%2Fnational-clinical-audits%2Fnational-audit-of-dementia%2Fnad-round-7-(2025-2027)%2Frcpsych-nad-organogram-20260107.docx%3Fsfvrsn%3D633ec1f1_5&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

2.2 Organisations involved in

[British Geriatrics Society \(BGS\) www.bgs.org.uk](https://www.bgs.org.uk)

“The British Geriatrics Society is the membership association for professionals specialising in the healthcare of older people across the UK. Founded in 1947, we now have over

delivering the programme

3,400 members, and we are the only Society in the UK offering specialist expertise in the wide range of healthcare needs of older people. Special Interest Groups within the Society focus on specific conditions including Falls and Bone Health, Oncology, Community Geriatrics, Cardiovascular Disease, Movement Disorders, Diabetes and Dementia.”

The BGS is represented on the project steering group and provides input into the programme design and outputs.

Age UK www.ageuk.org.uk

“Age UK is the country's largest charity dedicated to helping everyone make the most of later life.... We provide services and support at a national and local level to inspire, enable and support older people.”

Age UK is represented on the project steering group and provides input into the programme design and outputs.

[Alzheimer's Research UK \(ARUK\)](http://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org), www.alzheimersresearchuk.org

"We're working to revolutionise the way we treat, diagnose and prevent dementia. But we will not stop there. With your support, we will keep going until every person is free from the heartbreak of dementia. We exist for a cure."

ARUK is represented on the project steering group and provides input into the programme design and outputs.

[Alzheimer's Society](http://www.alzsoc.org.uk) www.alzsoc.org.uk

“Alzheimer's Society is a care and research [charity](#) for people with [dementia](#) and their carers. It is a membership organisation, which works to improve the quality of life of people affected by dementia in England, Wales and Northern Ireland”

Alzheimer's Society is represented on the project steering group and provides input into the programme design and outputs.

Dementia Alliance for Culture and Ethnicity (DACE) [HOME | dementiaace](#)

"The Dementia Alliance for Culture and Ethnicity (DACE) is an alliance of groups currently providing information and support to people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities in the UK.

We want to invite the support of any and all of those who want to help with our aims.

Our Call to Action promotes improved understanding of dementia in Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and improved services and support for all those living with dementia and their carers and families."

DACE is represented on the project steering group and provides input into the programme design and outputs.

Royal College of Nursing www.rcn.org.uk

"The Royal College of Nursing is the world's largest nursing union and professional body. We represent over half a million nursing staff and students in the UK and internationally. "

RCN is represented on the project steering group and provides input into the programme design and outputs.

Royal College of Physicians www.rcp.ac.uk/about-us/

"We represent more than 40,000 physicians worldwide – educating, improving and influencing for better health and care."

RCP is represented on the project steering group and provides input into the programme design and outputs.

2.3 Governance arrangements

The audit is governed by a steering group (SG) which meets 2-4 times a year. The steering group is jointly chaired by the Clinical Advisers.

The steering group advises on all aspects of the project including:

- standards
- methodology
- audit process
- recruitment of services
- reports and publications
- liaison with other key bodies such as the Department of Health and Welsh Government.

The Implementation Group is responsible for delivering the programme and ensuring the quality and accuracy of the data and project outputs.

The Implementation Group is formed of the core Project Team, Clinical Advisors, Patient and Carer Advisors, with input as required from Expert Advisors (statistician, QI expert)

2.4 Stakeholder engagement

Patients and carers are involved at all levels:

- The Patient and Carer Advisors have lived experience of living with dementia/ caring for a person with dementia. They have input into the Implementation Group informing key decisions and development, and the Steering Group which advises on all aspects of the project
- the Lived Experience Advisory Group convenes to provide direct feedback from people with lived experience into the programme, including healthcare priorities, standards, measurement and reporting, 4-6 times a year.
- The Patient /Carer group of representatives devised, discussed and finalised the content of the Patient Feedback Survey rolled out in round 5 and continuing in Round 6
- Development of the carer questionnaire used since Round 3 of audit was informed by a panel of carers and patients. Carers involved in testing the questionnaire returned comment on content and format

Clinicians are involved as Clinical Leads, via the Steering Group, and via Reference Panels providing advice on key aspects of the programme:

- Advising on measurement of evidence-based standards for the care of people with dementia.
- Being involved in the design of the audit tool and audit methodology.
- Interpreting the data from the audit from a clinical perspective.
- Presenting key findings from the audit at the professional annual conference.
- Input at report write-up stage.

2.5 Conflict of interest policy

Steering group members are required to declare conflicts of interest and this is reviewed at each meeting – this is a standing agenda item. Signed declarations regarding conflict of interest are collected from committee members annually/ when a new interest is declared,

and any interests are registered. The Royal College of Psychiatrists has a standard COI policy for all committee and steering group meetings.

<https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/improving-care/ccqi/national-clinical-audits/national-audit-of-dementia/what-is-nad>

Data collection for national clinical audits is covered by a joint privacy notice, explaining why data is collected and how confidentiality is maintained. This can be found on the website:

Our privacy notice can be found on the following web page:

<https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/aboutthecollege/dataprotection/privacynoticenationalaudits.aspx>

3.1 Quality improvement goals

Quality improvement goals were redrafted following consultation in 2025. There are 5 key goals for each healthcare setting.

Memory Assessment Services:

[nad-mas-healthcare-quality-improvement-plan---26jan2026.pdf](#)

General Hospitals:

[nad-gh-healthcare-quality-improvement-plan---jan2026.pdf](#)

3.2 Quality improvement driver diagram

<https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/improving-care/ccqi/national-clinical-audits/national-audit-of-dementia/information-governance>

3.3a Methods for stimulating quality improvement*

Workshops; On-line Quality Improvement guides; Action plan template

4a. Please add the most recent date that you have reviewed and updated an online version of UPCARE Programme section on your project's website (click into the response to see pop-up guidance).

03/02/2026

4b. Please add a hyperlink to UPCARE Programme section on your

<https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/improving-care/ccqi/national-clinical-audits/national-audit-of-dementia/information-governance>

**website (click
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