

**SPECIAL  
REPORT**



# THE NATIONAL AUDIT OF PULMONARY HYPERTENSION 2018 **KEY FINDINGS**

*Every year since 2008, the UK's specialist pulmonary hypertension centres have been asked to provide information on what they do and what their outcomes are, to ensure that high standards are maintained.*

*The ninth National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension, commissioned by NHS England and delivered by NHS Digital, was published this autumn. For the third year, we are bringing you a summary of its results, based on data covering the period of 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018.*

*Again, we are seeing even more improvement in even more areas, with the clear majority of targets met or exceeded - despite the many pressures facing the NHS. We have a network of specialist centres that make a big difference to people's lives, and that's something we should all be proud of. It's vital that these services are protected.*

*The following report aims to bring you the key findings from the National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension by bringing them to life in an accessible way. We've focused on the findings you told us were most important to you and we hope it provides a clear picture of what's going on nationally.*

*If you think the results could be presented in a different way, or there is anything you would like us to include in future reports, please do let us know. You can call us on 01709 761450 or email us at [office@phauk.org](mailto:office@phauk.org).*

**We hope you find this summary report useful. .**

**Iain Armstrong**  
Chair of PHA UK



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THE NATIONAL AUDIT OF PULMONARY HYPERTENSION 2018  
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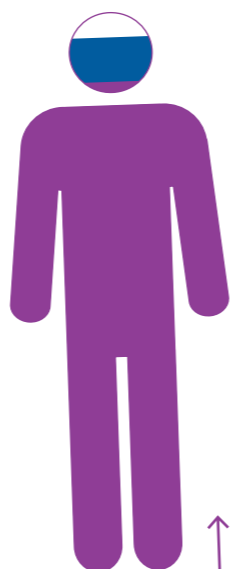
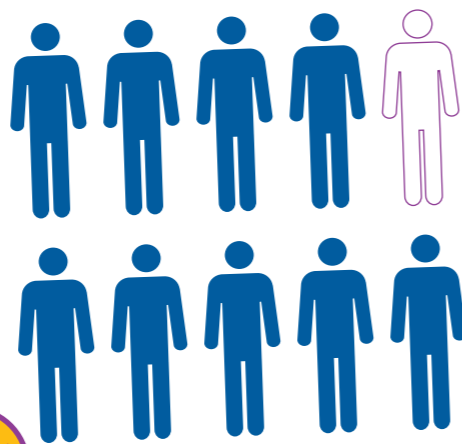
In 2017/18, data for the national audit was submitted by all eight specialist PH centres:

- Golden Jubilee National Hospital, Glasgow
- Hammersmith Hospital, London
- Papworth Hospital, Cambridge
- Royal Brompton Hospital, London
- Royal Free Hospital, London
- Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield
- Freeman Hospital, Newcastle
- Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, London

The following four findings were chosen by PH patients to be the most important to them. The percentages shown are an average across the centres who were audited and we have highlighted the differences between the findings from 2016/17 and 2017/18. We've also shown the professionally agreed standards that the centres are expected to meet.

How many patients, who have had at least one consultation in the last year, have had a quality of life questionnaire recorded during that time?

**96%**



**+8%**  
INCREASE  
ON 2017

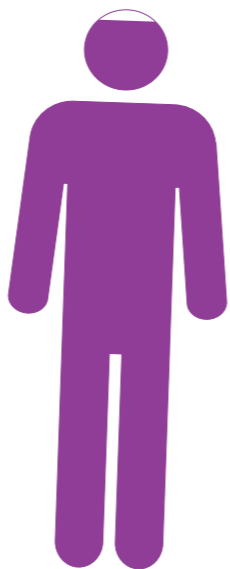
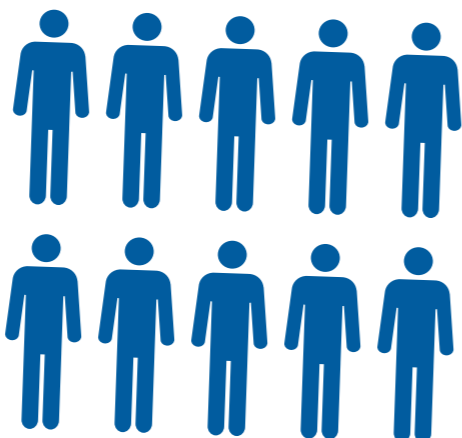
**PHA UK's view...**

We championed the introduction of this target as our members tell us that improvement of quality of life is the main thing they want from their treatment. It's great to see an upward trend for the second year in a row.

**90%**  
TARGET

How many patients referred to a specialist centre were seen, assessed and diagnosed within six months?

**98%**



**0%**  
INCREASE  
ON 2017

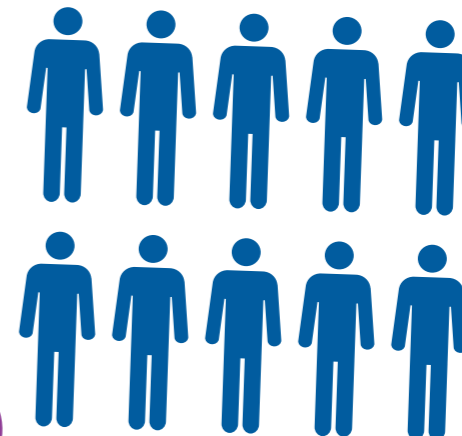
**PHA UK's view...**

A timely diagnosis is imperative to ensure patients can be put on the right therapy as quickly as possible. This target has been exceeded two years in a row, which is very encouraging.

**95%**  
TARGET

How many patients taking PH specific drugs have had at least one consultation at a specialist PH centre within the last 13 months?

**96%**



**0%**  
INCREASE  
ON 2017

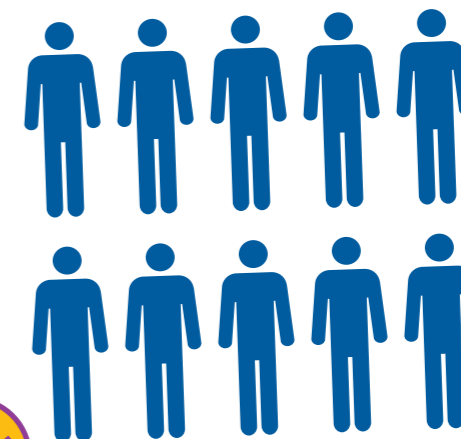
**PHA UK's view...**

Regular assessment is vital to ensure patients are responding positively to treatment, and specialists should be seen at least once a year. It's good to see this being achieved in line with targets.

**95%**  
TARGET

How many patients received a right heart catheterisation before being given drugs to treat PH?

**96%**



**+5%**  
INCREASE  
ON 2017

**PHA UK's view...**

Cardiac catheterisation is considered the 'gold standard' test to confirm the presence, nature and severity of PH. We're pleased to see this target being exceeded.

**95%**  
TARGET

I can't thank everyone at my specialist centre enough for extending my life and helping me to continue enjoying my retirement and family life.

**Mary Jane**

Since my diagnosis at my specialist centre I feel like I've had an angel watching over me. The care and treatment is beyond words.

**Asha**

See overleaf for more key findings from the National Audit of PH

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AUDIT OF PULMONARY  
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**KEY FINDINGS**

# The National Audit also discovered that between 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018:

PH centres managed  
**7670**  
PATIENTS.

7131  
LAST  
YEAR



**98%**

of patients had a WHO functional class and six-minute walk or shuttle exercise test recorded before being given drugs to treat PH.

87%  
LAST  
YEAR



**59%**

of patients referred to a specialist centre attended a consultation or were discharged within 30 days.

52%  
LAST  
YEAR

**100%**

of patients receiving drug treatment for PH had an official diagnosis recorded.

100%  
LAST  
YEAR



For **93%**

of patients, their first line drug therapy was a phosphodiesterase 5 inhibitor.

91%  
LAST  
YEAR

The full National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension, including all of the findings is available by visiting [www.content.digital.nhs.uk/ph](http://www.content.digital.nhs.uk/ph)

