

Specialist centre standards remain high



The latest data from the National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension shows specialist treatment centres in the UK have maintained high standards through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension (NAPH) is the largest audit of pulmonary hypertension in the world.

It was created in 2009 to measure quality of care by collecting and reporting on data across the UK's specialist centres, and the findings are used to inform future service planning.

Centres are measured against agreed national standards, with set targets - and despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the latest findings show centres continued to perform well.



"Once again, this national audit has demonstrated the high levels of care delivered by our network of specialist centres. Patients and their families should feel reassured by the data, which is reflective of the hard work of teams and individuals across the NHS."

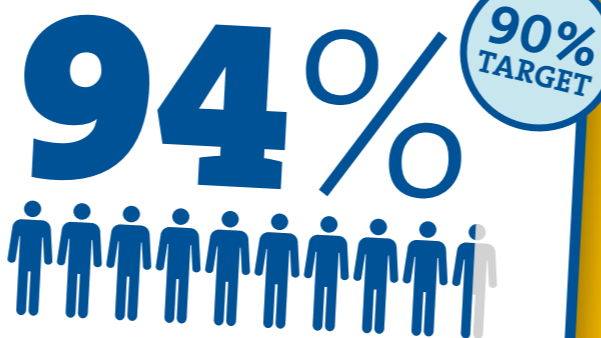
Professor David Kiely,
Lead Clinician,
National Audit of PH

See the findings over the page...

Key findings

The below statistics represent the evaluation of standards at a national level. Each centre has been provided with their own data to discuss with commissioners at a local level.

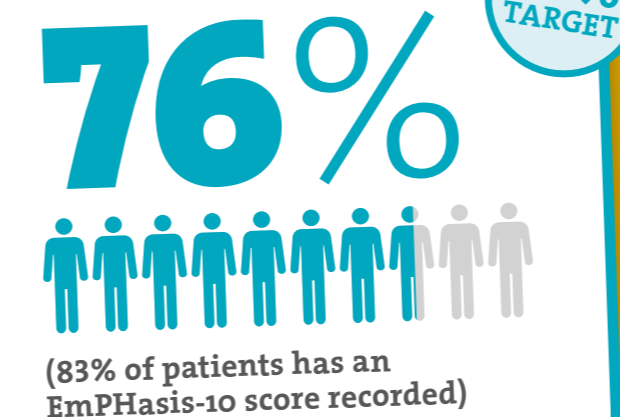
How many patients taking PH specific drugs have had a least one annual consultation at a specialist PH centre?



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



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?



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



A word of reassurance about your data

NHS Digital collects information about you and your treatment to track your care wherever you receive it. The data within the published audit is anonymised, which means that a patient cannot be identified because their personal information is removed. If you do not want your information to be used in future audits, please contact NHS Digital by emailing enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk or calling 0300 303 5678. They will talk you through the process of having your data removed. Please be assured that this will not affect your treatment and care in any way.

At the PHA UK we played an important part in the creation of the audit by funding its first year. Since then, we have continued to provide support and advice on behalf of the patient community.

Every year we bring you the key findings in a clear and understandable way, focusing on the statistics you told us were most important to you. We also provide anonymous patient quotes about some of the areas being audited for the NHS's own report - another way we ensure your voices are heard.

PHA UK Chair Dr Iain Armstrong was asked to provide the foreword for this year's report into the National Audit of PH.

He said: *"The pandemic has had an impact on new referrals, diagnosis and commencement of treatment - but despite the hurdles faced by the specialist centres, they have still managed to meet or exceed the majority of the standards set."*

I am very reassured that the service has continued to deliver high quality care throughout the pandemic.

It is also commendable that despite having the opportunity to 'opt out' of this year's audit, all of the centres chose to submit data. Keeping patients at the centre of healthcare is vital as we move out of the pandemic. And as we start to look ahead, this report gives me great confidence in our network of specialist centres - which truly are the envy of the world."

The audit is delivered by NHS Digital and commissioned by NHS England. It is also supported by NHS Scotland, NHS Wales (GIG Cymru), and the National Pulmonary Hypertension Centres of United Kingdom and Ireland Physicians' Committee.

The full National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension, including all the findings, is available by visiting [www.https://bit.ly/nationalaudit](https://bit.ly/nationalaudit)



What did the audit reveal?

All eight specialist PH centres covering England, Scotland and Wales took part in the latest audit, which looked at performance between 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021.

At a national level, eight of the 14 established National Standards were met. Failure to meet certain standards was not unexpected due to the disruption caused by the national emergency of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on clinical services and patient access to them.

Some of the additional findings

STANDARD	RESULT	TARGET
New patients should begin drug therapy within 12 weeks of referral	83%	80%
Patients receiving a PH drug should have had a PH diagnosis recorded	100%	99%
PH centres should record patient participation in research	27%	20%
New patients should be seen or discharged within 30 days	76%	50%

This data shows that between 2020 and 2021, patients were reviewed quicker than prior to the pandemic!

