

CARE STANDARDS PERSIST UNDER PRESSURE



Data shows standards of PH care remain high, despite the rising demand on services

The UK's specialist PH service is the envy of the world, and the latest **National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension** has once again confirmed that it delivers high standards of care for patients.

Each year, the audit measures the quality of care across the network of specialist centres by asking them to provide data that is then measured against a set of 15 agreed standards.

All of the adult UK centres, plus Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, take part - and the 16th Annual Report shows that the services are busier than ever. Between April 2024 and March 2025 (the period covered by the audit), more patients were managed than at any time since its inception.

Centres saw a 20% increase in new patients being referred with suspected PH compared to the year before, but despite these rising demands, performance against the national standards remained strong.



"We should take comfort from a UK pulmonary hypertension service that continues to perform well against national standards despite the challenges we face in the NHS."

Professor David G Kiely
National Audit of PH Clinical Lead

4469

people referred to a PH centre last year
(786 more than the year before)

The number of new referrals to PH centres has increased year-on-year, except in 2020-21 (during the COVID-19 pandemic). They have risen from 1,860 in 2009-10 (the first year of the Audit) to 4,469 in 2024-25.



1194

people started PH treatments last year
(55 more than the year before)

1,194 people started treatment for PH in 2024-25. This has increased from 766 people in 2009-10, the first year of the audit.



KEY FINDINGS

These are some of the key findings from the **16th National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension**, based on the standards **PHA UK members** told us they were most interested in hearing about. The findings are based on data gathered between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025.

8 OF THE 15 NATIONAL STANDARDS WERE MET AT NATIONAL LEVEL IN 2024-25

99% OF PATIENTS REFERRED TO A SPECIALIST CENTRE WERE DIAGNOSED WITHIN 6 MONTHS. (95% TARGET)

93% OF PATIENTS RECEIVED A RIGHT HEART CATHETERISATION BEFORE BEING GIVEN DRUGS TO TREAT PH. (95% TARGET)



"Although PH services across the UK differ in patient populations, geography, and staffing, all meet the international specifications required of expert centres. We work together with a shared goal: to optimise patient experience, survival, and quality of life. The national audit identifies areas for improvement and continues to drive high-quality, specialist care. Looking ahead, as our understanding of current and emerging treatments grows, we will be better equipped to deliver personalised medicine, offering tailored therapies with fewer side effects, longer life expectancy, and an improved quality of life for people living with PH."

Wendy Gin-Sing
Pulmonary Hypertension Nurse Consultant
Hammersmith Hospital



National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension

88% OF PATIENTS WHO HAVE HAD AT LEAST ONE CONSULTATION IN THE LAST YEAR HAVE HAD AN EMPHASIS-10 QUALITY OF LIFE SCORE RECORDED (90% TARGET).

Here at the PHA UK we championed the introduction of this standard because quality of life is so important.

97% OF PATIENTS TAKING PH MEDICATION HAVE HAD AT LEAST ONE CONSULTATION WITHIN THE LAST 13 MONTHS (95% TARGET).

All consultation types, including those not in-person, are included in this standard and statistic.

THE NATIONAL AUDIT OF PH SETS OUT TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- Are pulmonary hypertension services appropriate?
- Are patients receiving the right treatment in a timely manner?
- What are the outcomes for patients with pulmonary hypertension?

Information from the audit is used by clinicians and commissioners to inform clinical practice, service development, improvement, and commissioning activities.

The audit is commissioned by NHS England, and supported by NHS Scotland, NHS Wales, and the National Pulmonary Hypertension Centres of United Kingdom and Ireland Physicians' Committee.

The PHA UK also plays a key role in the audit. We funded its first year in 2009, and every year we bring our community the key findings in a clear and accessible way – in the form of this report. We continue to provide input into the development of the audit, influencing it to be of maximum benefit to patients.

Scan this code to access the full audit findings

