

PRESS RELEASE

NOCA'S AUDIT PORFOLIO IS GROWING AS IT WELCOMES NEW CARDIOVASCULAR AUDITS

4th June 2019 The National Office of Clinical Audit (NOCA) is delighted to announce that their audit portfolio is growing as it welcomes a cardiovascular programme of audits. This new programme is a major national healthcare quality improvement programme and includes the Irish National Audit of Stroke and Heartbeat Audit.

Cardiovascular disease remains a significant societal and healthcare burden in Ireland. Both ischaemic heart disease and stroke remain leading causes of death - ischaemic heart disease being the most significant cause of premature death in Ireland in 2017¹. The audits will measure the processes and outcomes of care (clinical audit) provided to stroke and heart attack patients in the Irish healthcare system against evidence based standards. The overall aim of the audits is to provide timely information to clinicians and other healthcare professionals, hospital and hospital group management, patients, and the public on how well stroke and heart attack care is being delivered so it can be used as a tool to improve the quality of care that is provided to patients.

Dr Colm Henry, Chief Clinical Officer with the HSE commented *"NOCA has been at the forefront of driving change in Irish healthcare through their national clinical audit portfolio. It is in the interests of patients and the safety of our services that the HSE continues to support this work and I am delighted to announce that the NOCA portfolio is growing further, with a new Cardiovascular Disease Audit Programme. This will include the Stroke and Heartbeat audits, two diseases which affect many people in Ireland and pose a large burden on the Irish healthcare system. Clinical audit, combined with an active culture of quality improvement, are essential components of a safe, effective healthcare system and must be protected and nurtured"*.

These audits will expand upon the excellent work which has been done to date by the National Clinical Programme for Stroke² with the National Stroke Register and the National Clinical Programme for Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS)³ with the Heartbeat Audit.

NOCA was established in 2012 to create sustainable clinical audit programmes at national level. NOCA enables those who manage and deliver healthcare to improve the quality of care through national clinical audit. NOCA is funded by the Health Service Executive Quality Improvement Division, governed by an independent voluntary board and operationally supported by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

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For further information or comment, contact Collette Tully, NOCA Executive Director at 087 2967535 or auditinfo@noca.ie

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

¹ <http://www.healthdata.org/ireland>

² <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/stroke/>

³ <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/acs/>