

PRESS RELEASE

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly launches NOCA five-year strategic plan

25th November 2021: The Minister for Health, Mr Stephen Donnelly TD, has today (Thursday) opened the launch of the National Office of Clinical Audit (NOCA) Strategy 2021-2025. The plan builds on the success of NOCA to date and outlines the direction and focus of the organisation for the next five years.

NOCA is the now a widely recognised and respected national organisation for its expertise in national clinical audit. This is based on NOCA's proven success designing, implementing and evolving national clinical audit to improve outcomes for patients. Currently NOCA manage the largest portfolio of national clinical audits and registries across the Irish healthcare system.

Minister Donnelly said *"I welcome the publication of the NOCA Strategy 2021-2025. This strategy outlines the key objectives of NOCA and will support and advance clinical audit. This in turn, can improve outcomes and care for the patients who use our healthcare services."*

The progression of this strategy seeks to improve the development of clinical audits and the use of audit data to support patient care and quality improvement. This can support further healthcare reform and is aligned with the delivery of the Sláintecare programme".

Collette Tully, NOCA Executive Director commented: "Our new Strategic Plan enables NOCA to continue to be the trusted organisation for reliable and independent clinical audit. In addition, it will also ensure NOCA expands and develops to meet the changing needs of the healthcare system while still ensuring that each NOCA audit is a driving force for improved care and patient outcomes".

The plan highlights three key strategic pillars which will be prioritised over the next five years:

- National Clinical Audit Excellence
- Audit Development
- Promote National Clinical Audit.

Speaking ahead of the launch, Brigid Doherty, Patient and Public Interest Representative on the NOCA Governance Board said "When a group of people, working collaboratively, with different skills and perspectives come together to review data analysis, audit outcomes and recommendations for change, they can be a powerful lever of change. Adding the patient and public voice is a critical aspect of practice improvement and the acknowledgement of good practice. NOCA has worked hard to engage in a meaningful way with PPI's, developing a shared understanding and trust and this will continue to grow into the future".

Copies of the NOCA Strategy 2021-2025 are available to download from the NOCA website [here](#).

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About NOCA

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 Office of the Chief Clinical Officer, governed by an independent voluntary board and operationally supported by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

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