

Criteria for Improvement Initiatives and Audit

Priority 1: External 'Must Do's'

Failure to deliver these improvements and audits may carry a penalty for the Trust (either financial or in the form of a failed target or non-compliance with standards). Improvements and audits within this section relate to or support the following priorities:

1a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Clinical Audit & Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP) required for Quality Accounts (includes National Confidential Enquiries into Patient Outcomes & Death NCEPOD)
1b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS England statutory requirements, e.g. infection control monitoring.
1c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust Objectives
1d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CQUINS or other commissioner priorities.
1e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New national targets and existing commitments (e.g. participation in heart disease audits, stroke, Myocardial Ischaemia).

Priority 2: Internal 'Must Do's'

Organisational clinical priorities: Many of these emanate from Trust governance issues or high profile local initiatives, although no penalties exist.

2a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient Safety issues (including PSA/safety alerts).
2b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical or Trust Risk issues e.g. serious untoward incidents/adverse incidents/ identified hazards.
2c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External accreditation schemes, e.g. cancer peer review
2d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance with CQC outcomes
2e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NICE guidance and quality standards

Priority 3

These initiatives have been identified within Divisions/Specialties/Services as important pieces of work that support the following priorities:

3a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National audits not part of Quality Accounts (e.g. Royal College initiated)
3b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance from professional bodies (e.g. Royal College).
3c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local guidelines/policies

Priority 4

It is important to maintain a degree of locally initiated improvement initiatives by clinical staff; these can lead to real improvements in patient care as well as providing valuable education for junior staff but do not necessarily fall into any of the other categories.

4a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other interest