

Each improvement initiative should be listed according to the priority categories below.

Priority 1: External 'Must Do's'

Failure to deliver these improvements 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:

- Improvements in response to findings from National Clinical Audit & Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP) required for Quality Accounts (includes National Confidential Enquiries into Patient Outcomes & Death NCEPOD)
- Improvements related to NHS England statutory requirements, e.g. infection control monitoring
- Trust Objectives, CQUINS or other commissioner priorities
- Improvements required to achieve 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.

- Patient Safety issues (including PSA / safety alerts)
- Clinical or Trust Risk issues e.g. serious untoward incidents / adverse incidents / identified hazards
- External accreditation schemes, e.g. cancer peer review
- Compliance with CQC outcomes
- Improvements that implement NICE guidance and quality standards

Priority 3

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

- National audits not part of Quality Accounts (e.g. Royal College initiated)
- Guidance from professional bodies (e.g. Royal College)
- 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.

- Other interest