

Job description

Job title:	Clinical Fellow (National Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audit)
Grade:	Band X
Department:	Clinical Effectiveness Unit
Responsible for:	n/a
Accountable to:	<i>The Audit's Methodologist and the Director of Clinical Effectiveness Unit</i>

Job summary

This position provides a unique opportunity to investigate the care given to patients with oesophago-gastric (OG) cancer and identify opportunities to improve outcomes for them. The National Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audit has access to a wealth of data on patients diagnosed in England and Wales, and this can provide important insights into the management of patients with these cancers. The successful candidate will work within a multidisciplinary team delivering the Audit and will play an active role in producing the audit reports and other outputs.

The fellowship will also involve undertaking research related to the Audit. Having a large detailed dataset available will enable you to develop a series of academic papers, whilst also developing advanced analysis and research skills. The post-holder will lead on the writing of journal articles and conference presentations with the support of senior colleagues at the CEU. The research can form the basis of either an MD or PhD. The fees for an MD or PhD will be covered by the CEU.

You will work in a vibrant audit and research environment, putting you at the heart of a national team that plays a key role in improving the care that people with OG cancer receive in England and Wales. NOGCA is part of the National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre (NATCAN). NATCAN is a new national centre of excellence overseeing the 10 National Cancer Audits for NHS services in England and Wales, and aims to strengthen NHS cancer services by looking at treatments and patient outcomes across the NHS. NATCAN is the largest centre evaluating cancer services in the UK, with 25 staff members, employed at the RCS or the LSTHM, from a wide range of backgrounds (medicine, statistics, epidemiology, data science, quality improvement, project management).

Further details about the National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre and the Clinical Effectiveness Unit are available at the bottom of the job description.



Collaboration



Respect



Excellence



Specific duties and responsibilities

1. Further development of the National OG Cancer Audit

To work closely with the Audit clinical leads and methodologists as well as the NATCAN team members based in the CEU in development the Audit. This work will include:

- Describing patterns of care and patient outcomes by analysing national datasets on hospital care surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy from the Audit's data providers in England (National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service [NCRAS], NHS England) and Wales (Wales Cancer Network, NHS Wales Health Collaborative)
- Reporting on variation in the treatment and outcomes of people with oesophago-gastric cancer in web-based quarterly reports, annual State of the Nation Reports, conference presentations and peer-review publications.
- Disseminating the Audit findings to key (professional and patient) stakeholders.

2. Collaboration with NCRAS, NHS England and Wales Cancer Network, NHS Wales health Collaborative and other relevant organisations to improve quality and timeliness of data, and increase the engagement of staff within NHS hospitals

- To liaise with NCRAS, NHS England and Wales Cancer Network, NHS Wales Health Collaborative in order to support the project management and data collection
- To liaise with staff in participating NHS hospitals in order to publicise the Audit and its findings and to respond to clinical queries
- To liaise with all professional bodies involved in the management of patients with OG cancer, and to represent the Audit at regional and national meetings

3. Quality Improvement and communication

- To contribute to developing and implementing plans for the Audit healthcare improvement activities including: improvement events, workshops and webinars
- To promote engagement with trainee networks and professional bodies with an interest in OG cancer care
- To produce audit communications (newsletters, emails, social media posts, website content)
- To contribute to the Audit's communication strategy, and identify opportunities to improve quality of communications with commissioners and other stakeholders
- To support and facilitate communication with, and meetings of, the audit's Patient and Public Involvement Forum.

4. Other

- To undergo further training in statistics and audit / research methodology
- To maintain the confidentiality of data at all times and to ensure that the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) are met throughout the project
- To ensure that the data collection, analysis and reporting are carried out to the highest professional standards
- To carry out other occasional duties within the Clinical Effectiveness Unit, e.g. contributing to training workshops



Collaboration



Respect



Excellence

There will be no clinical duties or on-call commitments but there is flexibility to allow the post-holder to continue their clinical practice.

This job description will be subject to review in the light of changing circumstances and may include other duties and responsibilities as may be determined. It is not intended to be rigid or inflexible but should be regarded as providing guidelines within which the individual works.



Collaboration



Respect



Excellence

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership / Fellowship of a relevant Royal College 	
Experience and skills (including Technical competencies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant clinical experience Experience in analysing clinical data Familiar with software for data management and statistical analysis Excellent numeracy Good understanding of health-related research methods Good understanding of basic statistical principles Evidence of NHS based quality improvement in a cancer or non-cancer discipline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of peer-reviewed publications Evidence of presenting research at professional conferences Understanding of epidemiological research (study design, data collection and analysis) Understanding of implementation research / Quality improvement methods Good understanding of national clinical audit programmes
People and interpersonal skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent verbal & written communication skills Good organisational skills Ability to think systematically and critically Computer literate and proficient with office software Ability to work independently Ability to work in a small team 	



Collaboration



Respect



Excellence



The post holder will also need to demonstrate the following values:

Collaboration	We embrace our collective responsibilities working collaboratively and as one college.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We work together, using our collective expertise and experience to effect positive change• We are open, honest and transparent, straightforward in our language and actions, acting with sincerity and delivering on our commitments• We take our responsibilities to each other, to patient care and to the environment seriously and we act with this in mind across our work
Respect	We value every person we come into contact with at the College as an individual, respect their aspirations and commitments in life, and seek to understand and meet their physical and wellbeing needs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We treat everyone we meet with kindness and integrity and we seek to promote these behaviours in others• We actively seek a range of views and experiences across our work, and we listen to, and make everyone feel, a valued part of the team
Excellence	We aspire to excellence and success. We share learning from our experiences, apply feedback into practice, and commit to continual improvement.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We work hard to be the best at what we do, recognising and celebrating effort and achievement, and reflecting on our work, so we can learn and improve• We value and invest in research, education and training to drive excellence and put improvements in surgical practice, dentistry and patient care at the heart of our work• We always seek to learn and discover more, valuing knowledge and scientific evidence, basing our decisions on insights, fact and experience

The Royal College of Surgeons of England is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We are open to all talent and we actively ensure that all qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment without regards to race/ethnicity, nationality, religion, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, age and disability.



Collaboration



Respect



Excellence

Further information

National Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audit

The National Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audit has been running for over a decade and has made a substantial contribution to benchmarking OG cancer services and stimulating improvements in the quality of care received by patients with OG cancer in England and Wales.

The Audit focuses on:

- the diagnosis, staging and treatment planning process
- curative treatments and their short-term outcomes
- palliative oncological treatment and endoscopic / radiological palliative therapies and their short-term outcomes

The Audit publishes comparative results for regions and NHS organisations (trusts and local health boards) on pre-treatment staging, treatment planning, the short-term outcomes of curative (surgical) and palliative care. It has published results on the quality of care received by OG cancer patients in relation to:

- Routes to diagnosis and variation in the proportion of people who are diagnosed with OG cancer following an emergency admission
- Waiting times through care pathways from referral to the start of curative and palliative treatments
- Variation across providers in the use of staging investigations such as PET-CT for patients with potentially curable oesophageal cancer
- The outcomes of curative resections
- Oncological treatments received by palliative patients

Building on its successes, the plan for the Audit is to look in detail along the care pathway before, during and after diagnosis. The data sources used for the Audit provide a wealth of information from which clinical and health services research questions can be answered.

Clinical Effectiveness Unit

The Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU) is a collaboration between The Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Department of Health Services Research and Policy of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

(<https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/surgeons/research/surgical-research/ceu>).

The objectives of the CEU are:

- to carry out national surgical audits



Collaboration



Respect



Excellence

- to develop audit methodologies
- to produce evidence on clinical and cost effectiveness

Since its inception in 1998, the CEU has become a national centre of expertise in the methods, organisation, and logistics of large-scale studies of the quality of surgical care. It has fostered collaborative links with professional organisations, the Department of Health and other relevant bodies within the NHS.

The CEU has developed a strategy for its involvement in national audit projects. An essential element of this strategy is that it considers audit projects as *epidemiological studies* of the quality of surgical care. This implies that epidemiological methods should be used to generate high quality evidence on the *processes* and *outcomes* of surgical care as well as on their *determinants*. Another important feature of the CEU's strategy is the emphasis it gives to joint clinical and methodological leadership.

The CEU's audits and research have directly influenced clinical policy as well as audit practice in the UK. We have undertaken national projects on tonsillectomy, liver and heart / lung transplantation, vascular surgery, joint replacement, bowel cancer, breast cancer, and treatment of children with a cleft lip or palate.

The CEU is a project-based organisation. The majority of its projects are externally funded. The CEU also receives a contribution from the College's research funds. The Unit has 20 staff members, of whom 7 are academic staff members of LSHTM. The background of the staff demonstrates the multidisciplinary character of the Unit (medicine, health services research, medical statistics, epidemiology and public health). The Unit's Director is David Cromwell, Professor of Health Services Research.



Collaboration



Respect



Excellence