



Job description

Job title:	Clinical Fellow for the National Prostate Cancer Audit
Grade:	Clinical Fellow / Trainee in Urology / Clinical Oncology
Department:	National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre (NATCAN) based in the Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU) with remote working available
Responsible for:	n/a
Accountable to:	Audit's Lead Methodologist and ultimately the Director of Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU)

Job summary

The fellowship provides a unique opportunity to work with an expert clinical / audit team at the national centre of excellence to help strengthen NHS cancer services and reduce variation in prostate cancer care. The role is based at the National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre (NATCAN) within the Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU), jointly run by the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCSEng) and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

The position would be suitable for a urological or clinical oncological trainee with an interest in prostate cancer. The successful candidate will work within a multidisciplinary team, analysing national data collected at scale starting in 2013 to carry out population-based research whilst developing advanced analysis and research skills. The research hub is housed at The Royal College of Surgeons in London but remote / on-line working will be available for a proportion of the working week.

The National Prostate Cancer Audit (NPCA) archive contains a large and detailed outcome-linked dataset which is available to undertake research for patient benefit and with the potential to generate academic papers with national / international impact. The post-holder is expected to lead on writing journal articles and conference presentations and work towards an MD or PhD thesis submission. All study will be supported fully by senior clinicians, epidemiologist, statisticians and the infrastructure integral to NATCAN. The NPCA has an excellent track record of success in MD and PhD submissions. Fees for higher degrees will be reimbursed by the CEU.

Further details regarding the National Prostate Cancer Audit (NPCA), National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre (NATCAN) and the Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU) are available with this job description (see below).



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Specific duties and responsibilities

Development of the National Prostate Cancer Audit

The successful applicant will work closely with the NPCA's senior team, including Professor Jan van der Meulen (Epidemiology), Dr Alison Tree (Clinical Oncology) and Professor Noel Clarke (Urology), as well as NATCAN team members based in the CEU in developing the Audit. This work will include:

a. Describing patterns of prostate cancer care and patient outcomes by analysing national datasets on hospital care, surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy from the Audit's data providers in England (NHS England) and Wales (Wales Cancer Network, NHS Wales Health Collaborative)

- Reporting on the variation in the treatment and outcomes of patients with prostate cancer in web-based quarterly reports, State of the Nation Reports, conference presentations and papers for peer-reviewed publications
- Supporting the dissemination of the Audit findings to key professional and patient stakeholders

b. Collaboration with 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 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 prostate cancer and to represent the Audit at regional and national meetings

c. 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 including BAUS and BUG
- To produce, with the NATCAN team, audit communications including newsletters, emails and social media posts
- To contribute, with the NATCAN team, 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 Patient and Public Involvement Forum

Training received

Audit and Data Skills Training

The successful candidate will:

- Undergo basic and higher-level training in statistics and audit / research methodology



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- Will receive instruction in the importance of data confidentiality, ensuring that the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) are met
- Will gain experience in high-level data collection, analysis and reporting which will be career enhancing in the long-term

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

01.02.2025



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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 in oncology, urology or radiology• Basic experience in analysing clinical data• Basic understanding of health-related research methods• An understanding of basic statistical principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience of research or clinical audit projects in a hospital setting• Evidence of peer-reviewed publications• Evidence of presenting research at professional conferences• Experience of analysing large electronic datasets• Understanding of epidemiological research (study design, data collection and analysis)
People and interpersonal skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent verbal and 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 team	



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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 age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.



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National Prostate Cancer Audit

The National Prostate Cancer Audit evaluates the quality of care received by patients newly diagnosed with prostate cancer in NHS hospitals in England and Wales. Its aim is to assess the organisation of cancer services as well as the diagnosis and staging process and the outcomes of treatment, including treatment toxicity.

The successful candidate will work within a multidisciplinary team, supporting the delivery of the audit and will play a central role in producing the audit reports and other peer-reviewed, published outputs. The National Prostate Cancer Audit is a mature audit containing comprehensive data from prostate cancer patients diagnosed between 2013 and 2025, with full linkage to Hospital Episode Statistics, the national radiotherapy dataset and other national databases relating to diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer. Data gathering continues and is reported annually. The NPCA is led by Noel Clarke, The Christie Hospital in Manchester and Alison Tree, The Royal Marsden Hospital in Surrey.

National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre

Evaluating and where necessary improving the treatment for cancer patients is a key priority for the NHS Cancer Programme, and the Quality Statement for Cancer Wales. The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership, on behalf of NHS England and the Welsh Government, commissioned the development and establishment of a new centre of excellence for national cancer audits.

NATCAN is part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP). NATCAN delivers six new national cancer audits in breast cancer (primary and metastatic), ovarian, pancreatic, non-Hodgkin lymphoma and kidney cancer, alongside four established national cancer audits in lung, oesophago-gastric, bowel and prostate. It:

1. Provides regular and timely evidence to cancer services of where patterns of care in England and Wales vary.
2. Supports NHS services to identify the reasons for the variation in care in order to guide quality improvement initiatives.
3. Stimulates improvements in cancer detection, treatment and outcomes including survival.

[NATCAN](#) began on the 1 October 2022 in the CEU at the RCSEng. The CEU is a collaboration between the RCSEng and the LSHTM and delivered the established national clinical audits prior to them joining NATCAN.

NATCAN collaborates closely with professional groups, clinicians and patient charities to ensure that all relevant stakeholders inform the quality improvement goals of each audit. NATCAN has approximately 50 staff from a range of disciplines including statistics, data science, health services research, epidemiology, healthcare quality improvement and clinical audit management. It is led by Dr Julie Nossiter, Director of Operations, NATCAN; Prof David Cromwell, Director of the CEU and Professor of Health Services Research, LSHTM; Dr Kate Walker, Associate Professor of Medical Statistics, LSHTM; and Prof Jan van der Meulen, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, LSHTM.



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NATCAN is a key source of information that supports various quality assessment and improvement activities, both at a local level (by NHS trusts and boards, Cancer Alliances, Integrated Care Systems) and at a national level (e.g., CQC inspection and regulatory work). The activities of NATCAN and the individual audits will drive quality improvement across the country aiming to help cancer services reach the highest standards possible.

Clinical Effectiveness Unit

The work of the CEU involves carrying out national clinical audits, developing audit methodologies and producing evidence on clinical and cost effectiveness.

An essential element of the CEU's strategy is that it considers audit projects as *epidemiological studies* of the quality of hospital care. Epidemiological methods are used to generate high quality evidence on the *processes* and *outcomes* of hospital 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.



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