



Job description

Job title:	Clinical Fellow, National Audit of Metastatic Breast Cancer
Grade:	Pay scales for Specialist Registrars in England up to ST5 (£49,909 - £61,825 (plus London weighting); in a full-time position, depending on qualifications and experience.
Department:	National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre (NATCAN), within the Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU)
Responsible for:	n/a
Accountable to:	Lead Methodologist, National Audit of Metastatic Breast Cancer

Job summary

This position provides a unique opportunity to investigate the care given to people with metastatic breast cancer and identify opportunities to improve cancer services and outcomes for patients. You will join a multi-disciplinary team and have access to a wealth of data on patients diagnosed in England and Wales. With careful analysis, these data can provide important insights into the management of patients with metastatic breast cancer which can inform initiatives to improve the quality of care.

The successful candidate will have an active role within the multidisciplinary teams delivering the Audit and will contribute to producing the audit “state of the nation” reports and other outputs. In particular, there will be opportunities to develop a series of journal articles and conference presentations, whilst also developing advanced analysis and research skills. These outputs can form the basis of either an MD or PhD. Examples of audit outputs can be found at: <https://www.natcan.org.uk/audits/metastatic-breast>

In addition, the audit is tasked with “closing the audit” loop, and quality improvement work (with associated communications and networking) will be a key part of the role.

The National Audit of Metastatic Breast Cancer (NAoMe) is part of a portfolio of ten cancer audits delivered by the National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre (NATCAN), which is located within the Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU). NATCAN is part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP). The centre is commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) on behalf of NHS England and the Welsh Government. NATCAN also delivers the National Audit of Primary Breast Cancer.

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



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Specific duties and responsibilities

1. Development of the National Audit of Metastatic Breast Cancer

- To work as part of the multidisciplinary NAO ME team (including methodologists and clinical leads) in further developing the Audit. This work will include:
 - Undertaking analyses of the prospectively collected patient data from the national cancer registration services in England and Wales
 - Reporting the results of the Audit in the “State of the Nation” Reports, conference presentations and papers for peer-reviewed publications
 - Reporting on the different treatment patterns of patients with breast cancer
 - Making use of the national datasets on hospital care, chemotherapy and radiotherapy
 - Working with National Audit of Primary Breast Cancer team when topics overlap (<https://www.natcan.org.uk/audits/primary-breast>)

2. Collaboration with data partners and other relevant organisations to improve quality of data, and increase the engagement of staff within NHS trusts

- To liaise with staff in participating NHS trusts and 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 breast cancer, and to represent the Audit at regional and national meetings

3. Quality improvement and communications

- Contribute to developing and implementing plans for healthcare improvement activities of the project teams, including: quality improvement events, workshops and webinars
- Promote engagement w/trainee networks and professional bodies.
- Produce audit communications (newsletter, emails, social media, website)
- Contribute to the Audit’s communication strategy, and identify opportunities to improve quality of communications with commissioners and other stakeholders
- Support and facilitate communication with, and the meetings of, the audit Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forum.

4. Other

- Undergo further training in statistics and audit / research methodology
- Maintain the confidentiality of data at all times and to ensure that the requirements of the Data Protection Act are met throughout the project
- Understand the legal framework that allows patient data to be analysed for quality improvement, clinical audit / service evaluation and research
- Ensure that the data collection, analysis and reporting of the study is carried out to the highest professional standards
- Carry out other occasional duties within the Clinical Effectiveness Unit, e.g. contributing to training workshops

There will be no clinical duties or on-call commitments but there is flexibility to allow the postholder to maintain some clinical practice. The RCS offers flexible working arrangements, with the postholder being expected to attend the RCS physically on a regular basis.



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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.

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• Good numeracy skills• 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 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 small 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 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, has 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 is home to all ten national cancer audits. This includes new audits in breast cancer (primary and metastatic), ovarian, pancreatic, non-Hodgkin lymphoma and kidney cancer. In addition, this includes to existing clinical audits in [prostate](#), [lung](#), [gastro-oesophageal](#) and [bowel](#) cancer. These audits have helped to identify and address variations in cancer care across England and Wales and improve outcomes for patients. They have also promoted quality improvement initiatives within NHS cancer services and identified best practice.

NATCAN aims to:

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

[NATCAN](#) began on the 1 October 2022 in the CEU, a collaboration between the RCSEng and LSHTM. 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 25 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 Ajay Aggarwal, Clinical Director, NATCAN; Prof David Cromwell, Director of the CEU and Professor of Health Services Research, LSHTM; Prof Kate Walker, Professor of Medical Statistics, LSHTM; and Prof Jan van der Meulen, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, LSHTM.

NATCAN will be 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.



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Clinical Effectiveness Unit

The [CEU](#) is a collaboration between the RCSEng and the Department of Health Services Research & Policy of the LSHTM.

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.

The CEU has 30 staff members, of whom 8 are academic staff members of the 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 Professor David Cromwell.



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