



The Royal College of
Ophthalmologists

NEWS RELEASE: London 3 November 2014

**The Royal College of Ophthalmologists secures
National Ophthalmology Database Audit contract from HQIP**

**The data will enable standardised benchmarking and quality assurance for
NHS eye health services**

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth) is delighted to announce that we have been awarded a contract to manage the National Ophthalmology Audit Programme (RCOphth NOA). The RCOphth will deliver this vital initiative which is commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership as part of the National Clinical Audit Programme¹.

Building on the achievements of the previous RCOphth National Ophthalmology Database (NOD), the new audit will be delivered over 3 years (2014 – 2017) and will further develop and utilise validated quality standards to benchmark cataract surgery outcomes between centres and individual surgeons across England and Wales.

The analysis of the data from over 255 units, will be completed by the NOD Delivery Unit, and will help hospital eye service teams (HES) understand performance levels of cataract surgery undertaken and include leading causes of complications and adverse visual outcomes, both at a local and national level.

John Sparrow, Clinical Lead for the RCOphth NOD Audit commented “The National Ophthalmology Audit is a welcome opportunity for ophthalmologists to demonstrate the high quality of the NHS services they deliver. It is vitally important that this type of data is collected to provide standardised benchmarking and quality assurance and to understand and minimise complications in the future. These valuable data will help to improve standards of care and patient safety and will have knock-on benefits for surgical training.”

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists will manage the audit and support all centres providing NHS cataract surgery in England and Wales to participate including NHS Hospital Trusts, privately run NHS Treatment Centres and private hospitals and clinics performing NHS funded cataract surgery. In addition to cataract surgery, electronic feasibility audits will be undertaken in Glaucoma Care, Retinal Detachment Surgery and Macular Degeneration Treatment.

The Macular Society, The International Glaucoma Association (IGA), The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and the RCOphth College Lay Advisory Group safeguard the needs and views of patients through direct involvement in the oversight and governance of the audit as members of the RCOphth NOD Audit steering board. Patients will be able to review the number of procedures performed and the quality assured performance levels of a particular HES.

The first report will be published in April 2015 and will allow centres and surgeons to compare their performance against their peers and allow public overview of performance. Subsequent reports will provide public reporting for centres and surgeons and facilitate patient choice. Relevant aspects of the audit will be submitted for peer reviewed publication in medical journals to enhance knowledge and to stimulate research.

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Notes to Editors

Cataract surgery is the most common surgical procedure performed in the UK with more than 300,000 cases carried out in 2013 (Source: Hospital Episode statistics <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/hes>)

About The Royal College of Ophthalmologists

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth) is the professional body for eye doctors, who are medically qualified and have undergone or are undergoing specialist training in the treatment and management of eye disease, including surgery. As an independent charity, we pride ourselves on providing impartial and clinically based evidence, putting patient care and safety at the heart of everything we do. Ophthalmologists are at the forefront of eye health services because of their extensive training and experience.

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists received its Royal Charter in 1988 and has a membership of over 3,500 consultants of all grades. We are not a regulatory body, but we work collaboratively with government, health and charity organisations to recommend and support improvements in the co-ordination and management of eye care both nationally and regionally.

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¹About HQIP, the National Clinical Audit Programme and how it is funded

HQIP is led by a consortium of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, the Royal College of Nursing and National Voices. Its aim is to promote quality improvement, and in particular to increase the impact that clinical audit has on healthcare in England and Wales. HQIP holds the contract to manage and develop the National Clinical Audit Programme, comprising more than 30 clinical audits that cover care provided to people with a wide range of medical, surgical and mental health conditions. The programme is funded by NHS England, the Welsh Government and, with some individual audits, also funded by the Health Department of the Scottish government, DHSSPS Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands.