

EXAMPLE specialty association letter

By email:

Consultant Team  
NHS Trust

Dear XXX

We are writing to encourage you to participate in the National Clinical Improvement Programme (NCIP) pilot due to commence in your trust on XX May 2019.

As you may know, NCIP is an online portal which allows individual consultants to log in and review their personal outcomes data alongside comparable national and unit level data. The portal will be a single point of access for consultants to source whole practice data from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) and, in time, audit and registry and the private sector, where there is a programme of work to bring data collection and measurement of private healthcare with the scope of NHS systems and standards.

NCIP is a Department of Health and Social Care programme, chaired by Professor Sir Norman Williams, and is part of the wider Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) programme, chaired by Professor Tim Briggs. A founding principle of NCIP has been that it should be a resource for the profession, led by the profession. Consultant-level data developed for NCIP are not for publication.

The **ALL RELEVANT SPECIALTY AND SUB-SPECIALTY ASSOCIATIONS** have been heavily involved in NCIP content development and output validation, helping to ensure the quality and suitability of coding algorithms and metrics. GIRFT Clinical Leads and consultants nominated by their Specialist Society have agreed analytic content for inclusion and validated outputs against available audits and/or with individual clinicians.

We are strongly supportive of both the objectives of NCIP and the approach that has been taken to its development. We anticipate that making HES data more visible to clinicians will drive a virtuous data cycle, improving the accuracy of coding. In particular we know that attribution of non-elective activity to consultants is often inaccurate, therefore this activity will not be captured in NCIP for the time being.

As NCIP develops it is anticipated that linking hospital theatre data will largely solve the attribution issue. At this stage we are looking to test the elective data content as well as the usability of the portal before the next steps can be taken on this journey. We therefore strongly encourage your and your colleagues' active participation in the pilot over the next few months.

Ultimately the success of this initiative will hinge on whether information made available through the portal directly supports quality improvement activities, as well as professional appraisal. The NCIP team need your feedback on this crucial question in order to ensure the programme helps to achieve our shared aim of delivering improved patient care.

Yours sincerely

[signed]