

Liberating the NHS:

Transparency in outcomes
- a framework for the

NHS

Your response to the consultation questions

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CHAPTER 2: Scope, purpose and principles of an NHS Outcomes Framework	
Principles	
<p>1. <i>Do you agree with the key principles which will underpin the development of the NHS Outcomes Framework (page 10)?</i></p>	<p>Yes the key principles are a favourable start. It is important that some current process measures that reflect quality and evidence are considered carefully before being withdrawn.</p> <p>The challenging task is to develop the detailed framework encompassing the principles and to develop a clear time line for its development, implementation and monitoring,</p> <p>The outcome framework should evolve over time, and should be evaluated to ensure it focuses on what is important to patients and professionals and is an accurate reflection of an improving NHS.</p> <p>It is important that there are clear timeframes for the improvement of outcomes and comparability with EU outcomes within the resource envelope.</p> <p>Moving forward from UK to European resource and outcome comparisons is important.as a better indicator of performance.</p>
<p>2. <i>Are there any other principles which should be considered?</i></p>	
<p>3. <i>How can we ensure that the NHS Outcomes Framework will deliver more equitable outcomes and contribute to a reduction in health inequalities?</i></p>	<p>This may require a strengthened focus on multi-agency Integrated care and health promotion linked to the development of agreed multi-agency health outcome indicators.</p>

4. <i>How can we ensure that where outcomes require integrated care across the NHS, public health and/or social care services, this happens?</i>	See Comment at 3
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Five Domains

5. <i>Do you agree with the five domains that are proposed in figure 1 (page 14) as making up the NHS Outcomes Framework?</i>	Yes
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6. <i>Do they appropriately cover the range of healthcare outcomes that the NHS is responsible for delivering to patients¹?</i>	As Waiting times are an integral part of patient experience, it is important that these should be incorporated.
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Structure

7. <i>Does the proposed structure of the NHS Outcomes Framework under each domain seem sensible?</i>	Yes - The timelines for development of the structure and systems of accountability to be included
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CHAPTER 3: What would an NHS Outcomes Framework look like?

Domain 1 – Preventing people from dying prematurely

8. <i>Is ‘mortality amenable to healthcare’ an appropriate overarching outcome indicator to use for this</i>	Yes - Life expectancy has been steadily rising from the inception of the NHS - will outcome targets for this measure be set that exceed what could be naturally expected to occur from better housing, diet public health, education etc?
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¹ **Please note** that public health and prevention will be covered in a separate consultation, linking to this framework where appropriate

<i>domain? Are there any others that should be considered?</i>	
<i>9. Do you think the method proposed at para 3.7-3.9 (page 20) is an appropriate way to select improvement areas in this domain?</i>	Yes - The underlying causes of Coronary Heart disease and Stroke such as the prevalence of long term conditions eg Diabetes should be recorded. This will allow for a service improvement plan that focuses on improvements to life expectancy via better health promotion, prevention and improved care processes.
<i>10. Does the NHS Outcomes Framework take sufficient account of avoidable mortality in older people as proposed in para 3.11 (page 21)?</i>	tbc
<i>11. If not, what would be a suitable outcome indicator to address this issue?</i>	tbc
<i>12. Are either of the suggestions at para 3.13 (page 21) appropriate areas of focus for mortality in children? Should anything else be considered?</i>	Yes - these are appropriate -
Domain 2 – Enhancing the quality of life for people with long-term conditions	
<i>13. Are either of the suggestions at para 3.19 (page 24) appropriate overarching outcome indicators for this</i>	<p>These measures may be appropriate if further analysis shows what areas of health management to focus on.</p> <p>While it is recognised that 29% of users have a multiple long term condition 71% have not.</p> <p>It is important that where best practice National Service Frameworks have been agreed by the Department of Health,</p>

<p><i>domain? Are there any other outcome indicators that should be considered?</i></p>	<p>Clinicians, Patients, Carers and leading charities representing users that these frameworks are retained and are incorporated into Quality standards and specific outcome indicators</p>
<p><i>14. Would indicators such as those suggested at para 3.20 (page 24) be good measures of NHS progress in this domain? Is it feasible to develop and implement them? Are there any other indicators that should be considered for the future?</i></p>	<p>Leading Service user Charities for long term conditions should be asked to specifically input into the most appropriate data set to collect.</p>
<p><i>15. As well as developing Quality Standards for specific long-term conditions, are there any cross cutting topics relevant to long-term conditions that should be considered?</i></p>	<p>Improved recording of acute episodes of care where a long term condition is the primary cause is important to develop specific action plans and a profile plan for reducing the incidence of these cases over time.</p>
<p>Domain 3 - Helping people to recover from episodes of ill health or following injury</p>	
<p><i>16. Are the suggestions at para 3.28 (page 27) appropriate overarching outcome indicators for this domain? Are there any other indicators that should be considered?</i></p>	<p>In order to develop appropriate indices for this further analytical work should be carried out to identify where the NHS is not achieving good outcomes.</p>
<p><i>17. What overarching outcome indicators could be developed for this domain in the</i></p>	<p>See Comment at 16</p>

<i>longer term?</i>	
<i>18. Is the proposal at paras 3.30-3.32 (page 28-29) a suitable approach for selecting some improvement areas for this domain? Would another method be appropriate?</i>	From Figure 6 and the low percentages of leading causes it can be assumed that there are a significant number of causes leading to the need for emergency bed days, Further analysis is required to inform how improvements could be planned and monitored.
<i>19. What might be suitable outcome indicators be in these areas?</i>	tbc
Domain 4 - Ensuring people have a positive experience of care	
<i>20. Do you agree with the proposed interim option for an overarching indicator set out at para 3.43 (page 32)?</i>	The approach is pragmatic, because long term conditions is such a great consumer of resources it could be considered as one of categories / or subcategories appropriate to collect data
<i>21. Do you agree with the proposed long term approach for the development of an overarching outcome indicator set out at para 3.44 (pages 32-33)?</i>	Yes
<i>22. Do you agree with the proposed improvement areas and the reasons for choosing those areas set out at para 3.45 (pages 33-34)?</i>	Yes - but add long term conditions to the schedule.

23. <i>Would there be benefit in developing dedicated patient experience Quality Standards for certain services or client groups? If yes, which areas should be considered?</i>	Yes - Long Term conditions
24. <i>Do you agree with the proposed future approach for this domain, set out at paras 3.52–3.54 (pages 36-37)?</i>	Yes
Domain 5 - Treating and caring for people in a safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm	
25. <i>Do you agree with the proposed overarching outcome indicator set out in para 3.58 (page 38)?</i>	Yes
26. <i>Do you agree with the proposed improvement areas proposed at para 3.63 (page 39-40) and the reasons for choosing those areas?</i>	Yes

GENERAL CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

<p>27. <i>What action needs to be taken to ensure that no-one is disadvantaged by the proposals, and how do you think they can promote equality of opportunity and outcomes for all patients and, where appropriate, NHS staff?</i></p>	<p>tbc</p>
<p>28. <i>Is there any way in which the proposed approach to the NHS Outcomes Framework might impact upon sustainable development?</i></p>	<p>tbc</p>
<p>29. <i>Is the approach to assessing and analysing the likely impacts of potential outcomes and indicators set out in the Impact Assessment appropriate?</i></p>	<p>tbc</p>
<p>30. <i>How can the NHS Outcomes Framework best support the NHS to deliver best value for money?</i></p>	<p>The NHS outcomes framework should be used in conjunction with robust strategic planning and financial affordability modelling to make informed decisions around health service investment. There will be a concern that local GP consortia will have the skills to complete this</p>
<p>31. <i>Are there any other issues you feel have been missed on which you would like to express a view?</i></p>	<p>During periods of significant change within the NHS, it is important that work carried out developing strategies and improvement programmes should be retained as used as part of the data-set in revising proposals across new planning areas</p>

ANNEX A: IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL OUTCOME INDICATORS

Potential Indicators

<p>32. <i>What are the strengths and weaknesses of any of the potential outcome indicators listed in Annex A with which you are familiar?</i></p>	<p>tbc</p>
<p>33. <i>Are other practical and valid outcome indicators available which would better support the five domains?</i></p>	<p>tbc</p>
<p>34. <i>How might we estimate and attribute the relative contributions of the NHS, public health and Social Care to these potential outcome indicators?</i></p>	<p>tbc</p>

Principles For Selecting Indicators

<p>35. <i>Are the principles set out on page 48 and 49 on which to select outcome indicators appropriate? Should any other principles be considered?</i></p>	<p>tbc</p>
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Please send your responses via email to:

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or via post to:

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You can also respond to this consultation by coming along to one of our regional events for NHS staff and patients which will be held across the country, details of which will be posted on the DH website shortly.