

National Cataract Audit Advisory Group – Member, Ophthalmologist in Training Volunteer Opportunity

Name of position: Ophthalmologist in training

Start date: February 2025

Term: 3 years renewable once (or whilst in a training post)

Time commitment: 4 days a year

Number of vacancies: 1

Meetings: 3 virtual meetings, correspondence in between meetings and opportunities to work on specific projects (TBC)

Contact: Joanna Szust, NOD Project Coordinator joanna.szust@rcophth.ac.uk

About the position

The National Ophthalmology Database (NOD) is internationally renowned as an exemplar of high-quality audit that produces results in positive outcomes for patients and the profession. The National Cataract Audit aims to prospectively collect, collate and analyse a standardised, nationally agreed dataset from all centres providing cataract surgery in the United Kingdom. It is a powerful quality improvement tool that enables benchmarking of standards of care, consistent with NICE guideline NG77 cataract surgery in adults: management and allows detailed audit of clinical outcomes as a by-product of routine clinical care when using Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems.

We are seeking applications for an ophthalmologist in training (ST2-ST5) to advise on maximisation of the Audit to inform training; improve patient outcomes; liaise with the ophthalmologists in training group; encourage engagement by trainees with the Audit outputs.

As an Advisory Group member, you will support the Clinical Lead in developing the national cataract audit.

Criteria for position

Applicants should:

- be Ophthalmologist in training (c year 2-5)
- have prior experience in clinical audit
- perform cataract surgery
- Affiliate member or Member/Fellow of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists

Benefits

Members will work in partnership with the RCOphth NOD Delivery Team to explore the use of clinical and process outcomes to promote quality improvement in UK cataract services, to identify opportunities to disseminate the audit results and to suggest implications of audit results for patient pathways. There will be opportunities to engage with quality improvement and research projects including the possibility of authorship on peer review publications, contribute to national discussions and engage with stakeholders.

How to apply

To apply for this exciting opportunity, please complete the [volunteer application form here](#) or on our website and include a CV with an up-to-date list of publications. Please also feel free to email john.buchan1@nhs.net (Clinical Lead for National Cataract Audit) if you have any questions.

All eligible individuals will be contacted via email and informed about interview arrangements which will be undertaken online.

National Cataract Audit Advisory Group - ~~Top~~ of Reference

Role of the Group

The Group is responsible for the oversight and management of the National Ophthalmology Audit Database (NOD) National Cataract Audit. This includes:

- Regular scrutiny of the national cataract audit's progress against agreed deliverables and reporting progress to the NOD Steering Group.
- Monitor project activity against milestones and deliverable outputs in accordance with the agreed project plan
- Provide leadership and commitment to the project, promoting effective communication of the Project's goals and progress via liaison with stakeholder groups to raise awareness of the project.
- Advise the NOD Steering Group on new development opportunities for the national cataract audit.
- Advise on and approve the project communications plan.
- Advise on the types of audit results to be placed on the outwardly facing RCOphth NOD website for the public, centres and surgeons.
- Approve reports for presentation on the web site or annual report and advise on potential additional reports or analysis either requested by third parties or for RCOphth development of the NOD.
- Review the high-level project risks and issues (escalated risks and issues), and approve their planned mitigation, management or corrective action.
- Act as a point of resolution for issues that cannot be resolved by the Project Delivery Team. Items that cannot be resolved by the Group will be escalated in line with an agreed Escalation Process.
- Adjudicate or endorse any resolutions proposed to issues escalated from the Project Delivery Team.
- Advise and assist in the delivery all engagement plans and activities where necessary.

NB: **Escalation:** Any disagreements or disputes relating to this project should initially be raised to and addressed by the Project Manager. Where resolution is not possible or may impact the project deliverables it must be raised with the Project Delivery Team, and then the Clinical Lead and Management Group. Where resolution through discussion, debate or compromise cannot be found, the Management Group should escalate the problem to the Steering Group and ultimately to College Board of Trustees.

Accountability

The Cataract Audit Advisory Group will be formed as a 'work group' of the NOD Steering Group, reporting to the Steering Group and, through the Steering Group, ultimately to the Trustee Board. The RCOphth Trustee Board will take ultimate responsibility for the RCOphth NOD.

Membership of the Advisory Group

- Chair: RCOphth Clinical Lead for the National Cataract Audit
- An independent statistician
- A representative from each of the following:
 - The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) or appropriate patient group
 - The RCOphth Lay Advisory Group
 - National Quality Improvement Network (incl. Clinical Audit) (N-QI-CAN) – Networking and Sharing Forum (NNSF) for the collaboration and sharing of Clinical Audit and other Quality Improvement resources
- A representative from The College of Optometrists
- RCOphth representatives:
 - 4 ophthalmologists who regularly perform cataract surgery (may practice in the NHS or the independent sector in any UK country)
 - Other representatives will be co-opted as appropriate, including the National Cataract Audit Specialist Adviser (outgoing chair).

Advisory Group members are responsible for reading all circulated documentation prior to the meeting and bring all necessary materials to the meeting.

Term of office:

All representatives are appointed for a three-year period renewable once (maximum 6 years). It is expected that there will not be more than one half day of online or face-to-face meetings every quarter of the year. Dial-in facilities can be provided for members unable to attend in person. Other communication regarding any specific matters for review and agreement will take place via email.

All College officers and individuals sitting on, or contributing to, committees should make an annual declaration of interest covering both the present and the preceding three years. Please refer to the RCOphth Declaration of Interest Policy and Form: [RCOphth Declaration of Interest Form 2019](#).