



# Audit confirms high quality care

The latest **National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension** shows continuing strong performance by the UK's specialist centres...

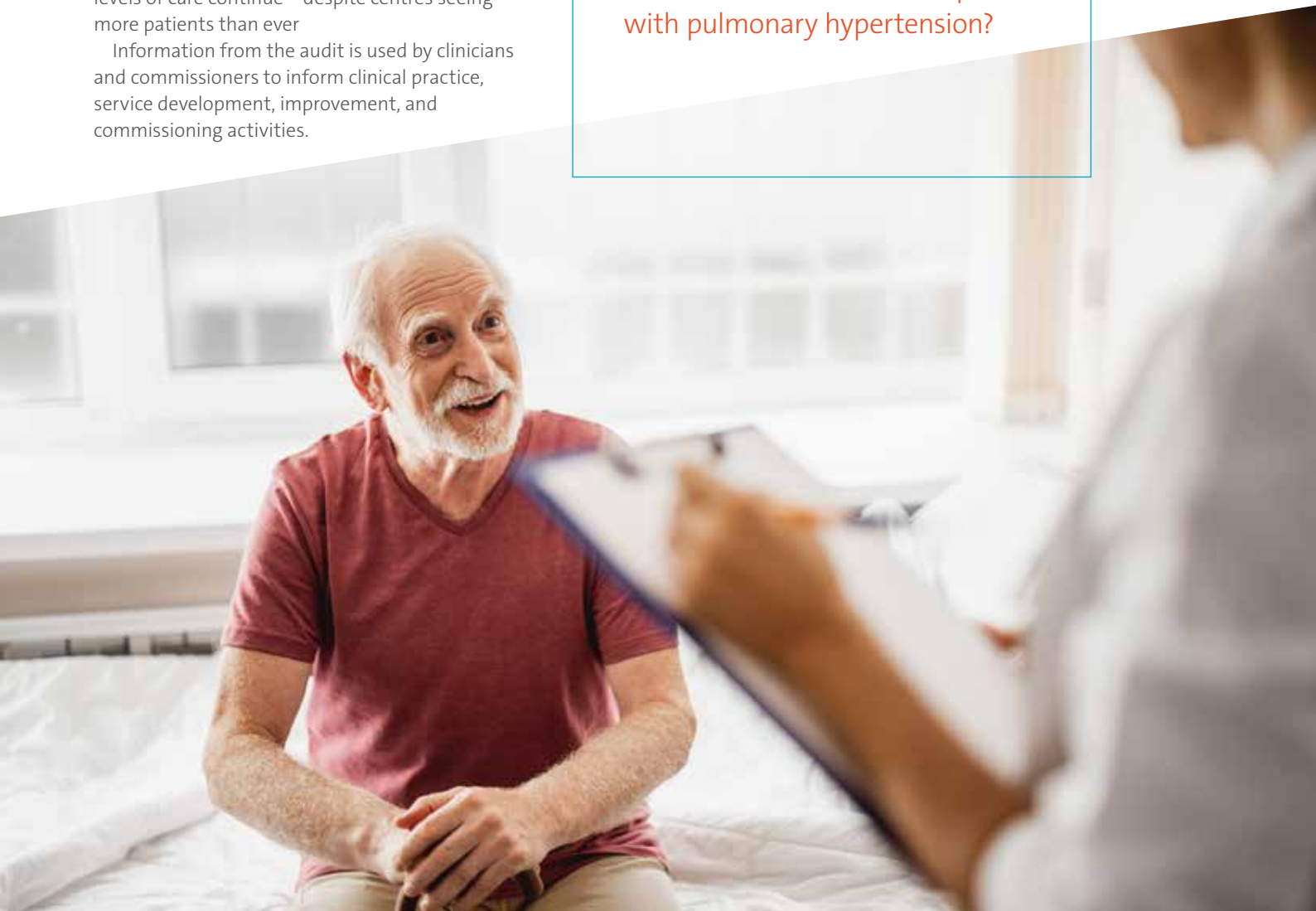
**The** consistent message we receive from our members is that the care from their specialist teams is outstanding – and now the latest results from an NHS quality measure confirms they are doing an excellent job.

Every year, the National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension (NAPH) measures the quality of care provided to PH patients in the UK by asking specialist centres to provide data that is then compared against a set of 15 agreed standards. The latest audit, covering 2023-24, shows high levels of care continue – despite centres seeing more patients than ever

Information from the audit is used by clinicians and commissioners to inform clinical practice, service development, improvement, and commissioning activities.

## **The audit sets out to answer the following questions:**

- Are pulmonary hypertension services appropriate?
- Are patients receiving the right treatment in a timely manner?
- What are the outcomes for patients with pulmonary hypertension?





# KEY FINDINGS

These are some of the key findings from the 15th National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension, based on the standards our members told us they were most interested in hearing about.

The findings are based on data gathered between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024. All eight specialist centres covering England, Scotland, and Wales took part.



**9 of the 15 national standards were met at a national level in 2023-24.**

**Specialist centres are seeing double the number of patients compared to 15 years ago.**

The number of new referrals to PH centres has increased year-on-year, except in 2020-21 (during the COVID-19 pandemic). There were 3,683 in 2023-24, compared to 1,861 in 2009-10 (the first year of the audit). In total, almost 38,000 people have been referred to the UK's specialist centres since April 2009.

**The number of patients starting PH treatment is the highest it has been since the audit began.**

1,139 people started therapy in 2023-24, compared to 743 people in 2009-10, the first year of the audit.

**99%** of patients referred to a specialist were diagnosed within 6 months. (95% target)

**96%** of patients received a right heart catheterisation before being given drugs to treat PH. (95% target)

**95%** of patients who have had at least one consultation in the last year have had an emPHasis-10 quality of life score recorded (90% target).

Here at the PHA UK we championed the introduction of this standard because quality of life is so important.



**97%** of patients taking PH medication have had at least one consultation within the last 12 months. (95% target) All consultation types, including those not in-person, are included in this standard and statistic.

66

The results of this year's audit should provide **reassurance** to people living with pulmonary hypertension that the UK National Network continues to provide high quality care.

**Professor David Kiely**  
NAPH Clinical Lead





## National Audit of Pulmonary Hypertension

## A true partnership

The audit is commissioned by NHS England, and supported by NHS Scotland, NHS Wales, and the National Pulmonary Hypertension Centres of United Kingdom and Ireland Physicians' Committee.

The PHA UK also plays a key role in the audit. We funded its first year in 2009, and every year we bring our community the key findings in a clear and accessible way – in the form of this report. We continue to provide input into the development of the audit, influencing it to be of maximum benefit to patients.

Over the next few months, in collaboration with NHS England and the clinical services, we will be engaging in significant work to explore any untapped potential within the audit, and how it may be enhanced or made even more meaningful.

This work will include consulting with PHA UK members as key stakeholders, so please look out for invitations to provide your feedback and input as the year goes on.



The audit is a true partnership and the fact that people living with PH are involved is something we are all **very proud of**.

### Professor David Kiely

NAPH Clinical Lead  
(pictured)



## More than just assessing performance against standards

The utility of the audit goes beyond simply reporting on whether standards have been met or not. It provides a huge amount of data that is used to give a greater understanding of PH, and this will be developed further in the future through the introduction of new and innovative measures that could paint a more detailed picture.

## Reassurance and hope

Dr Shahin Moledina, a PH consultant at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, has been part of the audit project board for many years. He said:



Since its inception, a great strength of the audit has been its inclusive approach, encompassing patients regardless of geography or age – making it **truly unique**. While the audit develops year on year, one thing remains a constant: at its core, the NAPH reflects the UK's approach to pulmonary hypertension care – a community of people, patients and their representatives, commissioner's and clinicians working together to improve care. This gives me cause for great **hope**.



Click this code to access the full audit findings on the NAPH interactive dashboard.

PHA UK → Pulmonary Hypertension Association UK

NHS England

NHS SCOTLAND

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES

National PH Physicians Committee of UK and Ireland