

# Job description

<b>Job title:</b>	ABS Clinical Fellow, the National Audit of Primary Breast Cancer, and National Audit of Metastatic Breast Cancer
<b>Grade:</b>	BMA Spine points (ST1-5) - £43,923 - £55,329 (plus London weighting)
<b>Department:</b>	Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU)
<b>Responsible for:</b>	n/a
<b>Accountable to:</b>	Professor David Cromwell, Director of the Clinical Effectiveness Unit

## Job summary

This position provides a unique opportunity to investigate the care given to patients diagnosed with primary and/or metastatic breast cancer and identify opportunities to improve cancer services and outcomes for patients. You will join a multi-disciplinary team and have access to a wealth of data on patients diagnosed in England and Wales. With careful analysis, these data can provide important insights into the management of patients with this cancer which can inform initiatives to improve the quality of care.

The successful candidate will have an active role within the multidisciplinary teams and support the development of quality improvement activities of the audit. These new audits are tasked with “closing the audit” loop, and the candidate will have a vital role in developing how the audit can support the quality improvement work, and associated communications and networking, including producing outputs such as conference presentations and journal articles. This will involve undertaking data analysis, producing actionable information for NHS breast units on patterns of care and outcomes, and developing tools / guidance on the translation of the findings into local QI initiatives. We expect the development work / research undertaken by the candidate would form the basis of an MD/PhD thesis.

The breast cancer audits (primary and metastatic) will be delivered as part of a portfolio of six new cancer audits to be delivered by the National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre (NATCAN), which has been newly established within the Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU).

NATCAN is part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP). The centre is commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) on behalf of NHS England and the Welsh Government. Ovarian, pancreatic, non-Hodgkin lymphoma and kidney cancer are the other four audits to be delivered alongside the two breast cancer audits.

NATCAN audits aim to:

1. Provide regular and timely evidence to cancer services of where patterns of care in England and Wales vary.
2. Support NHS services to identify the reasons for the variation in care in order to guide quality improvement initiatives.
3. Stimulate improvements in cancer detection, treatment and outcomes including survival.



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**Respect**



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## Specific duties and responsibilities

### 1. Support the development of the National Audit of Primary Breast Cancer, and National Audit of Metastatic Breast Cancer

- To work with the senior methodologists and other CEU staff as well as with the senior clinical leads in further developing the Audit. This work will include:
- Undertaking analyses of the prospectively collected patient data from the national cancer registration services in England and Wales
- Producing results / material for the Audit “State of the Nation” Reports, conference presentations and papers for peer-reviewed publications
- Reporting on the different treatment patterns of patients with DCIS, early disease, and advanced breast cancer
- Making use of the national datasets on hospital care, chemotherapy and radiotherapy

### 2. Collaboration with data partners and other relevant organisations to improve quality and timeliness of data entered, and increase the engagement of staff within NHS trusts

- To liaise with staff in participating NHS trusts and hospitals in order to publicise the Audit and its findings and to respond to clinical queries
- To liaise with all professional bodies involved in the management of patients with breast cancer, and to represent the Audit at regional and national meetings

### 3. Quality improvement and communications

- Contribute to developing and implementing plans for healthcare improvement activities of the project teams including: quality improvement events, workshops and webinars
- Promote engagement with trainee networks and professional bodies including the ABS.
- Produce audit communications (newsletter, emails, social media, website)
- Contribute to the Audit’s communication strategy, and identify opportunities to improve quality of communications with commissioners and other stakeholders
- Support and facilitate communication with, and the meetings of, the audit Patient Panel.

### 4. Other

- Undergo further training in statistics and audit / research methodology
- Maintain the confidentiality of data at all times and to ensure that the requirements of the Data Protection Act are met throughout the project
- Understand the legal framework that allows patient data to be analysed for quality improvement, clinical audit / service evaluation and research
- Ensure that the data collection, analysis and reporting of the study is carried out to the highest professional standards
- Carry out other occasional duties within the Clinical Effectiveness Unit, e.g. contributing to training workshops

There will be no clinical duties or on-call commitments but there is flexibility to allow the postholder to maintain some clinical practice.



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**This job description will be subject to review in the light of changing circumstances and may include other duties and responsibilities as may be determined. It is not intended to be rigid or inflexible but should be regarded as providing guidelines within which the individual works.**

## Clinical Effectiveness Unit

The Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU) is a collaboration between The Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Department of Health Services Research and Policy of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

[\(https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/surgeons/research/surgical-research/ceu/\)](https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/surgeons/research/surgical-research/ceu/)

The objectives of the CEU are:

- to carry out national surgical audits
- to develop audit methodologies
- to produce evidence on clinical and cost effectiveness

Since its inception in 1998, the CEU has become a national centre of expertise in the methods, organisation, and logistics of large-scale studies of the quality of surgical care. It has fostered collaborative links with professional organisations, the Department of Health and other relevant bodies within the NHS.

A key element of the national clinical audits undertaken at the CEU is that audits are designed as epidemiological studies of the quality of surgical care. This implies that epidemiological methods should be used to generate high quality evidence on the processes and outcomes of surgical care as well as on their determinants. Another important feature of the CEU's approach to national audit is the emphasis it gives to joint clinical and methodological leadership.

The CEU is a project-based organisation and has undertaken national studies on joint replacement, liver and heart / lung transplantation, urological cancer surgery, emergency surgery, oesophago-gastric cancer, bowel cancer, breast cancer, and treatment of children with a cleft lip or palate. The results from these studies have directly influenced clinical policy as well as audit practice in the UK. The Unit has 15 staff members, of whom 6 are academic staff members of LSHTM. The background of the staff demonstrates the multidisciplinary character of the Unit (medicine, health services research, medical statistics, epidemiology and public health). The Unit's Director is David Cromwell, Professor of Health Services Research.



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### Association of Breast Surgery (ABS)

The ABS is a charitable organisation dedicated to setting and advancing standards in breast care and breast surgery, including cosmetic (aesthetic) breast surgery. Our work ranges from breast diagnostic clinics, where any woman or man who has a breast concern can be seen and assessed, through to complex oncoplastic breast cancer surgery and breast reconstruction.

The ABS wants to ensure that any individual with a breast problem receives the very best possible care. We aim to achieve this by providing ongoing specialist breast education and training to allow ABS members to remain up-to-date with the latest research developments, new treatments and surgical techniques. We also encourage best practice by working with NICE, the Care Quality Commission and other associations and charities interested in breast care, to develop clinical guidelines based on high quality research recommendations from around the world. In addition, we drive up standards and reduce regional variations in care by regularly auditing the performance of individuals and breast teams. Funding of this post represents one of the mechanisms for attaining these aims.



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# Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
<b>Qualifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Membership / Fellowship of a relevant Royal Surgical College</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member of the ABS</li> <li>Training in the care of patients with breast cancer</li> </ul>
<b>Experience and skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant clinical experience</li> <li>Experience of data management and statistical analysis in health care settings</li> <li>Experience of presenting to medical and lay audiences</li> <li>Ability to think systematically and critically</li> <li>Computer literate and proficient with office software</li> <li>Good understanding of health-related research methods and audit</li> <li>Good numeracy and understanding of basic statistical principles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience of research or clinical audit or quality improvement projects in a hospital setting</li> <li>Evidence of peer-reviewed publications</li> <li>Evidence of presenting research and/or audit at professional conferences</li> <li>Knowledge of data protection and information security principles</li> <li>Familiar with statistical software for data management and analysis, such as Stata or R.</li> <li>Understanding of epidemiological research (study design, data collection and analysis)</li> <li>Familiar with national clinical audit programmes</li> </ul>
<b>People and interpersonal skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to work independently</li> <li>Ability to work in multidisciplinary teams</li> <li>Excellent verbal and written communication skills</li> <li>Good organisational skills</li> </ul>	



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**The post holder will also need to demonstrate the following values:**

<b>Collaboration</b>	<b>We embrace our collective responsibilities working collaboratively and as one college.</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We work together, using our collective expertise and experience to effect positive change</li> <li>• We are open, honest and transparent, straightforward in our language and actions, acting with sincerity and delivering on our commitments</li> <li>• We take our responsibilities to each other, to patient care and to the environment seriously and we act with this in mind across our work</li> </ul>
<b>Respect</b>	<b>We value every person we come into contact with at the College as an individual, respect their aspirations and commitments in life, and seek to understand and meet their physical and wellbeing needs.</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We treat everyone we meet with kindness and integrity and we seek to promote these behaviours in others</li> <li>• We actively seek a range of views and experiences across our work, and we listen to, and make everyone feel, a valued part of the team</li> </ul>
<b>Excellence</b>	<b>We aspire to excellence and success. We share learning from our experiences, apply feedback into practice, and commit to continual improvement.</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We work hard to be the best at what we do, recognising and celebrating effort and achievement, and reflecting on our work, so we can learn and improve</li> <li>• We value and invest in research, education and training to drive excellence and put improvements in surgical practice, dentistry and patient care at the heart of our work</li> <li>• We always seek to learn and discover more, valuing knowledge and scientific evidence, basing our decisions on insights, fact and experience</li> </ul>

The Royal College of Surgeons of England is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We are open to all talent and we actively ensure that all qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment without regards to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.



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**Respect**



**Excellence**