**National Respiratory Audit Programme (NRAP)**

Catching our breath report – glossary

Version 1.0 – June 2025

**Glossary of key terms in *Catching our breath* report**

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| **AECOPD** | Acute exacerbation of COPD. This is a flare-up of COPD where there is a worsening in the airway function and an increase in respiratory symptoms. |
| **Audit** | Clinical audit is a way to find out if healthcare is being provided in line with standards and lets care providers and patients know where their service is doing well, and where there could be improvements. |
| **BPT** | Best practice tariff. This is a national price which can be paid to providers to incentivise certain elements of quality care. |
| **Case ascertainment** | A measure of how many patients were audited against how many patients were treated in total. |
| **COPD** | Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. |
| **DHSC** | The Department of Health and Social Care support ministers in leading the nation’s health  and social care to help people live more independent, healthier lives for longer. |
| **Eligible services** | Services in England and Wales that offer a respiratory service, or pulmonary rehabilitation service. |
| **Exacerbation** | A sustained worsening of the person's symptoms from their usual stable state, which is  beyond normal day-to-day variations and is acute in onset. |
| **Healthcare improvement** | A way to solve a problem within a healthcare setting using specific methodology and tools. |
| **Health inequalities** | Avoidable, unfair and systematic differences in health between different groups of people. |
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| **Integrated care boards** **(ICBs)** | ICBs are statutory NHS organisations in England which are responsible for developing a plan for meeting the health needs of the population, managing the NHS budget and arranging for the provision of health services in a geographical area. There are 42 ICBs in England. |
| **ISWT** | Incremental Shuttle Walk Test. This is a walking test used in PR which allows the operator (e.g. nurse/physio) to monitor the functional capacity of patients. During this walk test two cones are set 9 metres apart, which the patient is required to walk around in time to a set of auditory beeps. |
| **KPI** | Key performance indicators. These are things NRAP has identified as the most important for people with asthma and COPD, and for those completing a programme of pulmonary rehabilitation to receive when being cared for. |
| **Local health boards** **(LHBs)** | Local health boards are responsible for planning and delivering NHS services in their area in Wales. There are 7 local health boards in Wales. |
| **NICE** | NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) is the independent organisation responsible for driving improvement and excellence in the health and social care system. They provide evidence-base guidance, advice and quality standards. |
| **NIV** | Non-invasive ventilation is a breathing support machine sometimes used in very unwell people admitted to hospital. |
| **NRAP** | National Respiratory Audit Programme. |
| **NRAP Healthcare Improvement goal** | NRAP has a healthcare quality improvement strategy in place from 2024-26. In this strategy, we have identified key healthcare improvement goals which were developed with the help of a task and finish group. NRAP will be supporting services in England and Wales to take steps to achieve these goals by May 2026. |
| **PAAP** | Personalised asthma action plan. This includes personalised instructions for self-managing asthma, which should be decided collaboratively with the patient. |
| **Pulmonary rehabilitation (PR)** | Pulmonary rehabilitation is a treatment programme for people who become breathless because of their lung condition, and it is made up of exercise classes, information, advice and techniques to manage breathlessness. |
| **Tobacco dependence** | This is when physical and psychological factors make it difficult for someone to stop smoking, even if they want to quit. |
| **Tobacco dependency service** | These are services which provide advice, support and treatment to help people stop |
| **6MWT** | 6-Minute Walk Test. This is a walking test designed to assess the functional exercise perfomance of patients in order to reflect daily activities. During the 6-minutes of self-paced walking, the response of the heart and lung is measured. |