

# Data Implementation Lead Role Description

## Purpose of the Role

The Data Implementation Lead plays a crucial role in using the power of national datasets and national audits to drive local quality improvement (QI) in cancer centres. They will be able to analyse key datasets (e.g., RTDS, SACT) to identify trends, support local teams in leveraging data for service enhancement and promote evidence-based QI initiatives.

By advocating for improved data access, sharing best practices, and collaborating with the leaders of NATCAN audits, GIRFT projects and cancer datasets, they will ensure national insights translate into meaningful local impact. Their work aligns with professional and clinical priorities, fostering a data-driven culture to enhance oncology services.

The RCR recommends that 0.5-1 programmed activity per week should be allowed in the job plan for this role. In some cases, the Data Implementation Lead may also serve as the Audit Lead. Where this applies, the role provides additional opportunities to align audit activities with data-driven quality improvement (QI) initiatives, ensuring a cohesive approach to service evaluation and enhancement.

## Key Responsibilities of Data Implementation Leads

### Access and understand national data

- National data and audit reports (e.g. NATCAN State of the Nation reports, GIRFT reports, RCR audits)
  - Access new reports when published and consider variations in process, treatment and outcomes.
  - Lead and encourage local teams to reduce unacceptable variation using this data.
- NATCAN audits
  - Use NATCAN reports, quarterly data dashboards and QI plans to identify opportunities for local QI in oncology departments and implement targeted initiatives to address them.
- NDRS Datasets
  - Access relevant national datasets (e.g., RTDS, SACT).
  - Develop expertise in interpreting and analysing data to identify trends, outliers and opportunities for improvement.

Where the Data Implementation Lead is also the Audit Lead, national data (e.g., NATCAN audits, GIRFT reports) can complement audit activities by identifying key focus areas for clinical audits and evaluating their impact.

### Support and Inspire Local Teams

- Enthuse and support local colleagues to engage with national datasets, helping them understand their value and applications e.g. using data for personal appraisals, ensuring service data accuracy, benchmarking departmental performance against others.
- Disseminate key insights to teams and stakeholders, providing actionable information that informs clinical decision-making.

- Use audit findings alongside national datasets to provide a clearer picture of performance and improvement opportunities.

### **Collaborate on Quality Improvement (QI)**

- Work with local teams to integrate data-driven findings into practical, evidence-based QI initiatives.
- Provide guidance and encouragement to ensure effective implementation of QI programmes.
- Monitor the outcomes of QI initiatives to assess their impact and identify areas for further improvement.
- Feedback assessments to the Data Implementation Leads Steering Group.
- Align audit outcomes with data-driven QI initiatives to ensure that insights from both processes inform service enhancements.

### **Collaborate within the RCR data leads network**

- Share successful projects, learning outcomes and innovations with the network to foster collaboration and promote best practices across organisations.
- Identify barriers or areas of need for improved national data or data access and communicate these issues to the Steering Group for advocacy.
- Share experiences and best practices that integrate audit findings with national data analysis to drive improvements across organisations.

## **The RCR will support data leads by:**

- Hosting opportunities for Data Implementation Leads to collaborate, share best practices, and learn from the successes of peers across organisations via the data implementation leads network.
- Developing online resources in partnership with the National Disease Registration Service, NHSE to support Data Implementation Leads in building expertise in accessing, interpreting and analysing national datasets.
- Delivering webinars focused on implementing change and using NATCAN findings to enhance the quality of care.