

NHS England has released the **NHS Performance Assessment Framework (NPAF)** for 2025/26 for consultation and to allow testing and engagement during Q1. It will replace the National Oversight Framework in setting out **how success and areas for improvement are identified** across Systems.

The Framework will apply to all Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and Trusts, who provide services. It will provide consistent assessment of performance and provide clarity to **enable targeted improvement**.

It will work alongside the **Strategic Commissioning Framework** to support ICBs **strengthen their role as commissioners and providers** with capabilities to drive the 3 shifts.

**The final version of the framework will be released in July**, after iteration during Q1 and the publication of the 10-year Health Plan. This will be accompanied by the first formal segmentation of all ICBs and providers.

## What will be assessed?

Four domains will be evaluated by measuring ICBs and providers against 2025/26 priority delivery metrics to determine a segmentation score.



### 1. Operating priorities

- Elective care, cancer care, urgent and emergency care, people with a learning disability or autistic, mental health care and primary care.



### 2. Finance and productivity metrics

- Financial balance, productivity.



### System considerations – ICBs only

- ICBs will also be assessed against whole system performance metrics
- This includes urgent and emergency care, elective care, cancer care, primary care, mental health and finance.



### 3. Public health and patient outcome metrics

- Outcomes, prevention of ill health, managing long-term conditions.



### 4. Quality and inequalities metrics

- Patient safety, patient experience, workforce and people, reducing inequality.



### Leadership Capability Assessment (currently under development)

*Will not be an assessment domain, but will be used to determine leadership's capacity to improve and inform what performance support activity is needed from NHSE.*

## How will the framework be measured?

Each ICB and provider will be allocated a segment on a scale of 1-4, which indicates the degree of support and improvement required. Those in **segment 4 will be subject to a diagnostic review** to determine if they enter the new **segment 5**.

Segments will not be adjusted for organisational capability to ensure full transparency to the public about how their local NHS is performing.

Those in **segment 1 will gain greater autonomy**, whilst those in **3-4 will be considered for further attention and intervention**.

ICBs and Trusts in **segment 5 will be placed on the Recovery Support Programme**.

### Segmentation approach

1	High Performing <i>Greater autonomy</i>
2	↓
3	Poorly Performing
4	<i>Diagnostic review</i>
5	↓ Intensive support

## Key aims



**Transparency** – By assessing and publicly reporting performance, ICBs and Trusts can be held publicly accountable for the services they provide.



**Aligning with national priorities** – The framework aims to align with national priorities, to reflect both current operating priorities and longer-term strategic ambitions and expectations.



**System-Level Insights** – Evaluation across the regional system enables NHS organisations to be viewed holistically and encourages cohesive work to meet local population needs.



**Patient centred** – Proposed metrics have been reviewed by a Clinical Advisory Group to prioritise healthcare quality.



**Consistency and clarity** – The framework provides clarity on the expectations and criteria for performance, helping NHS organisations understand what is required of them and how they will be evaluated.



**Improvement and intervention** – Regular assessments enable recognition of success and identification of problems, which allows for targeted support and interventions.