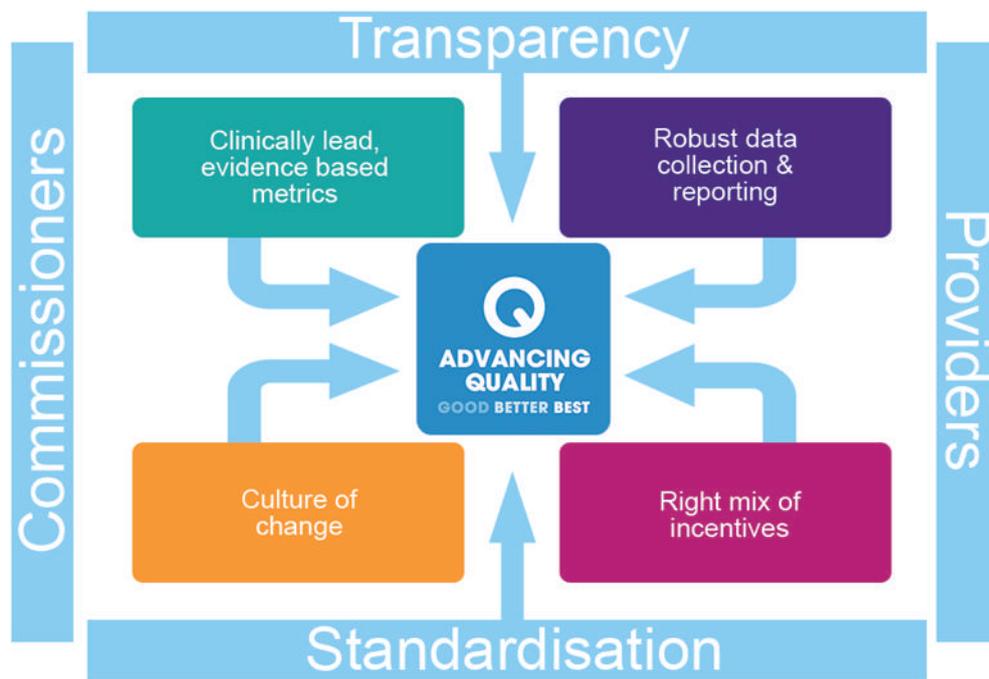


# Advancing Quality in Secondary Care

Advancing Quality (AQ) is an established approach to reducing variation and improving outcomes for patients in the North West of England. It aims to improve clinical care by producing and implementing evidence-based bundles of care across a collaborative network of hospitals. It is the flagship programme of AQUA and aims to give patients a better experience of the NHS by ensuring the highest standards are consistently delivered.



## Current Clinical Focus Areas (CFA) for Secondary Care

- Stroke
- Diabetes
- Acute Kidney Injury
- Alcohol Related Liver Disease
- Hip and Knee Replacement Surgery

- Sepsis
- Pneumonia
- Hip Fracture
- Heart Failure
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Focused on embedding intervention measures across care pathways, the programme offers the means through which to evidence base high quality practice, driven by clinical expertise through collaborative networking.

AQ aims to:

- Save lives and improve quality of life for patients
- Drive commissioning for quality in a changing landscape
- Incentivise and accelerate change
- Achieve value for money

### Example Clinical Focus Area: Sepsis

There are approximately **150,000** cases of sepsis in the UK each year. Sepsis is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality – estimated **30%** mortality in the North West of England. It is responsible for about **13,500** admissions and **3,800** deaths per annum.

The AQ sepsis programme aims to improve sepsis care and clinical coding within the region. In the first **12** months the care of over **9,500** patients with infection was examined.

The measure set is consistent with recommendations from the International Surviving Sepsis Campaign (2012).

### AQ Sepsis Measure Set

Measure ID	Measure Name
<b>SEPS-01</b>	Early Warning Score recorded within 60 minutes of hospital arrival
<b>SEPS-02</b>	Evidence of 2 or more SIRS criteria and documentation of suspected sepsis source within 2 hours of hospital arrival
<b>SEPS-03</b>	Blood cultures taken within 3 hours of hospital arrival
<b>SEPS-04</b>	Antibiotics administered within 3 hours of hospital arrival
<b>SEPS-05</b>	Serum lactate taken within 3 hours of hospital arrival
<b>SEPS-06</b>	Second litre of IV fluids commenced within 4 hours of hospital arrival if systolic BP < 90 mmHg or Lactate = 4 mmol/l
<b>SEPS-07</b>	Oxygen therapy administered within 4 hours of hospital arrival if SpO2 < 94%
<b>SEPS-08</b>	Fluid Balance Chart commenced within 4 hours of hospital arrival if IV fluids commenced
<b>SEPS-09</b>	Senior Review or assessment by Clinical Care Team with 4 hours of hospital arrival if lactate > 4 mmol/l
<b>SEPS-10</b>	Severity of sepsis documented
<b>SEPS-11</b>	Antibiotic review within 72 hours

Sepsis care is assessed by using performance on individual measures and an Appropriate Care Score (ACS) – the percentage of patients who received all eligible measures.

Performance results were published on a monthly basis and shared with collaborating hospitals. Each colour block represents two acute Trusts.

The bottom of each block represents the lower performing Trust and the top the higher performing.

Since AQ Sepsis started a higher proportion of patients are now receiving “appropriate care”

**SEPSIS ACS Compression Charts to Feb 2016**

