

APPENDIX ONE NHS NATIONAL OBJECTIVES 2024/25

Area	Objective
Quality and patient safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF)
Urgent and emergency care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve A&E waiting times, compared to 2023/24, with a minimum of 78% of patients seen within 4 hours in March 2025 Improve Category 2 ambulance response times to an average of 30 minutes across 2024/25 Improve community services waiting times, with a focus on reducing long waits
Primary and community services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to improve the experience of access to primary care, including by supporting general practice to ensure that everyone who needs an appointment with their GP practice gets one within 2 weeks and those who contact their practice urgently are assessed the same or next day according to clinical need Increase dental activity by implementing the plan to recover and reform NHS dentistry, improving units of dental activity (UDAs) towards pre-pandemic levels
Elective care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminate waits of over 65 weeks for elective care as soon as possible and by September 2024 at the latest (except where patients choose to wait longer or in specific specialties) Deliver (or exceed) the system specific activity targets, consistent with the national value weighted activity target of 107% Increase the proportion of all outpatient attendances that are for first appointments or follow-up appointments attracting a procedure tariff to 46% across 2024/25 Improve patients' experience of choice at point of referral
Cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve performance against the headline 62-day standard to 70% by March 2025 Improve performance against the 28 day Faster Diagnosis Standard to 77% by March 2025 towards the 80% ambition by March 2026 Increase the percentage of cancers diagnosed at stages 1 and 2 in line with the 75% early diagnosis ambition by 2028
Diagnostics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the percentage of patients that receive a diagnostic test within six weeks in line with the March 2025 ambition of 95%
Maternity, neonatal and women's health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to implement the Three-year delivery plan for maternity and neonatal services, including making progress towards the national safety ambition and increasing fill rates against funded establishment Establish and develop at least one women's health hub in every ICB by December 2024, working in partnership with local authorities
Mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve patient flow and work towards eliminating inappropriate out of area placements Increase the number of people accessing transformed models of adult community mental health (to 400,000), perinatal mental health (to 66,000) and children and young people services (345,000 additional CYP aged 0–25 compared to 2019) Increase the number of adults and older adults completing a course of treatment for anxiety and depression via NHS Talking Therapies to 700,000, with at least 67% achieving reliable improvement and 48% reliable recovery Reduce inequalities by working towards 75% of people with severe mental illness receiving a full annual physical health check, with at least 60% receiving one by March 2025 Improve quality of life, effectiveness of treatment, and care for people with dementia by increasing the dementia diagnosis rate to 66.7% by March 2025
People with a learning disability and autistic people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure 75% of people aged 14 and over on GP learning disability registers receive an annual health check in the year to 31 March 2025 Reduce reliance on mental health inpatient care for people with a learning disability and autistic people, to the target of no more than 30 adults or 12–15 under 18s for every 1 million population
Prevention and health inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the % of patients with hypertension treated according to NICE guidance to 80% by March 2025 Increase the percentage of patients aged 25–84 years with a CVD risk score greater than 20% on lipid lowering therapies to 65% by March 2025 Increase vaccination uptake for children and young people year on year towards WHO recommended levels Continue to address health inequalities and deliver on the Core20PLUS5 approach, for adults and children and young people
Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the working lives of all staff and increase staff retention and attendance through systematic implementation of all elements of the People Promise retention interventions Improve the working lives of doctors in training by increasing choice and flexibility in rotas, and reducing duplicative inductions and payroll errors Provide sufficient clinical placements and apprenticeship pathways to meet the requirements of the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan
Use of resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver a balanced net system financial position for 2024/25 Reduce agency spending across the NHS, to a maximum of 3.2% of the total pay bill across 2024/25