How we can help you manage your winter pressures

Managing winter pressures in acute hospitals can be challenging, with many responses being reactive and sometimes targeting the wrong areas.

At NHS Midlands and Lancashire (NHS ML), we have a proven track record of delivering detailed analysis to help acute trusts and integrated care boards (ICBs) address these challenges more effectively.

By combining the clinical expertise of our Nursing and Urgent Care team with the advanced skills of our Data Science team, we can analyse your data to pinpoint exactly how winter pressures are affecting your system. Together, we can develop targeted strategies to ease these pressures and improve outcomes.

Why choose NHS ML

Wraparound multi-service offer

Our skilled data scientists work closely with the specialist clinical expertise of our Nursing and Urgent Care team to deliver comprehensive support, including clinical audits and engagement.

Quality and safety

Our continuous quality improvement (CQI) approach promotes a culture of psychological safety, where staff feel confident to speak up, take proactive action, test new ideas and solutions.

Staff experience

CQI provides staff with meaningful opportunities for engagement and involvement in driving positive improvement. Every voice matters, creating a workplace where staff feel valued and supported.

What we offer

Complete pathway analysis

We provide an in-depth, multi-dimensional analysis of pathways to identify the exact patient cohorts contributing most to seasonal pressures. This goes beyond surface-level metrics, offering actionable insights that focus on root causes rather than just admissions numbers.

Variability and sensitivity analysis

While some aspects of winter pressures follow predictable patterns, others are more dynamic. We help you understand these variations and develop flexible, data-informed mitigation plans tailored to your organisation's needs.

System redesign

Using a consistent approach and language, we offer training, tools, and structures such as improvement huddles, education sessions, and coaching to embed daily team-based improvements. Our approach empowers staff across all levels - from the floor to the board - with the knowledge and confidence to apply quality improvement (QI) in practice.

Governance and learning loops

We help design and test QI governance structures while implementing robust benefits realisation frameworks to monitor success and impact. Wins will be celebrated, and we'll establish feedback loops to ensure every improvement cycle brings valuable learning and refinement.

Real-time monitoring of winter pressures

In addition to forecasts, we offer real-time visibility into current inpatients treated for seasonal conditions. By integrating with your electronic patient record (EPR), we use machine learning to classify and summarise patient notes, enabling proactive management and reducing blind spots.

On the ground change support

Our experienced senior nurses will work on site alongside your teams to identify, support, and embed improvement initiatives.

How you'll benefit

Engaged workforce:
Your staff will feel empowered to identify opportunities for improvement and take action in a constructive, supportive environment.

Co-design and tailored support:
Cultural change is a journey. We'll work with you to co-design your vision and provide bespoke support that meets the unique needs of your organisation.

Patient-oriented priorities:
Your organisation will align around consistent priorities, creating a golden thread from patient-level outcomes to team actions and strategic board decisions.

Enhanced CQI Capabilities:
We'll leave your organisation with improved capabilities, a robust QI approach, and a deeper passion for continuous improvement. These improvements will support your response to the care quality commissions well-led reviews and NHS impact plans.