



East & West Midlands Clinical Senates

► WHAT ARE CLINICAL SENATES? WHAT DO WE OFFER?

Clinical Senates act as a source of independent, strategic advice and guidance to commissioners and other stakeholders, supporting them to make the best healthcare decisions for the populations they represent.

Clinical Senates' advice may be provided to, or be of relevance to, a number of different bodies within the health and care system including Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), local government, providers, commissioners, improvement bodies, and regulators.

Clinical leadership is at the heart of the NHS commissioning system. Working with expert clinical leaders, health and social care professionals, and patients, we provide advice and leadership on how services should be designed to provide the best overall care across the healthcare system to improve patient outcomes and population health.

By harnessing collective regional expertise and intelligence, the Clinical Senates are positioned as valued, independent and impartial bodies within the health and care landscape, helping to bring a renewed professional focus to the challenges facing health communities.

The East and West Midlands Clinical Senates cover all Midlands ICSs and are well placed to support their healthcare communities in transforming local healthcare to meet the changing needs of its populations.

The Senate Council is the core decision making body for the Senate. This is a multi-disciplinary steering group of senior health leaders, clinical experts, other professionals and representatives from patients and the public with an independent chair. The Clinical Senate Council will take an overview of strategic issues and oversees the Clinical Senate's business and provision of advice, drawing on the Assembly's views and expertise.

The Clinical Senate Assembly is a diverse, multi-professional membership forum, providing a clinical resource and access to experts from the full range of health and care professions. Clinical Senate Assembly members will be invited to participate in issues of strategic importance to improve healthcare in the region and formulate independent clinical advice. Members will work in multi-professional groups to provide their expert knowledge and opinion – clinical reviews could be virtual (desk top review) or a physical meeting based in one of our ICS Footprints in the East and West Midlands.

➤ TYPES OF SUPPORT?

The Senate offers support under five broad categories detailed below with the sixth covering bespoke projects carried out by our Clinical Senate Leadership Fellows annually. Please contact us and we would be happy to have an informal conversation to explore your particular needs further.

Senate support can be broadly categorised as:

1. INDEPENDENT CLINICAL REVIEW TO SUPPORT MAJOR SERVICE CHANGE AND RECONFIGURATION

The Clinical Senate is integral to the processes related to all major service changes within systems. The Clinical Senate should be engaged early to support systems to develop a robust clinical model and to help plan timelines and manage expectations. An independent Clinical Senate review would focus on ensuring there is a clear clinical evidence base which is a key test for major service change. The Senate can support the system throughout the whole process through to its decision-making business cases.

2. INDEPENDENT CLINICAL ADVICE/REVIEW TO SUPPORT OTHER SYSTEM PRIORITIES

Clinical Senates can undertake reviews or provide advice at all points in transformation processes. For example, theme-based reviews to support system priority areas and assist in understanding how they fit in the long-term plan priorities, the current system map and what improvements are advisable. Clinical Senates support systems to understand and frame local challenges within the national context. This includes key priorities such as reducing health inequalities and improving outcomes.

3. BUILDING CLINICAL LEADERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE

Clinical Senates have a unique position in the system with very positive and wide-reaching relationships across health and social care. Through membership on the Clinical Senate Council and Assembly, clinical professionals have significant opportunities to get involved in major service changes in other systems and exposure to broader Clinical Senate activities to support their development as leaders for the future.

4. SHARING BEST PRACTICE

Clinical Senates have a huge resource in the pooled expertise of its Senate members, further informed by the learning of the combined clinical reviews they have undertaken. Clinical Senates provides the platform for sharing that expertise and learning effectively both within an individual Senate geography and between Senates nationally.

5. SUPPORTING PROGRESS WITH LOCAL CHALLENGES

As an independent and impartial body, Clinical Senates can operate as an 'honest broker' to help create a forum where conflicting clinical views can be reconciled or issues that have become entrenched and block progress can be resolved. This facilitates progress in a constructive and positive manner for the health economy.

6. PROACTIVE WORK PROGRAMMES

Proactive work is agreed by our Senate Council and features in our annual work programme and is led by our Clinical Senate Leadership Fellows.

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The advice was valuable and raised some useful points, particularly around clinical governance and accountability. The CCG have now been able to address this at an early stage in the project and have acted on the advice provided. Debate has already taken place with clinicians and will be built into the long-term plans.

Senior Commissioning Manager – Urgent Care,
NHS Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning
Group, May 2019

The advice provided was extremely valuable. The recommendations have informed, and have been embedded in, the Decision Making Business Case and have also informed future planning for when the centre is operational

Associate Director of Special Projects & EPRR,
Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG, October 2020

➤ MORE INFORMATION?

Much more detailed information is available on our website:

www.midlandssenates.nhs.uk

Please contact the Head of Clinical Senates at:

england.eastmidlandsclinicalsenate@nhs.net
or england.wmcs@nhs.net

To have an informal conversation about your needs and explore how the Senate can help you.



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