

25/26 MIAA Insight

NHS England's National Oversight Framework Capability Self-Assessment

1 Introduction and Background

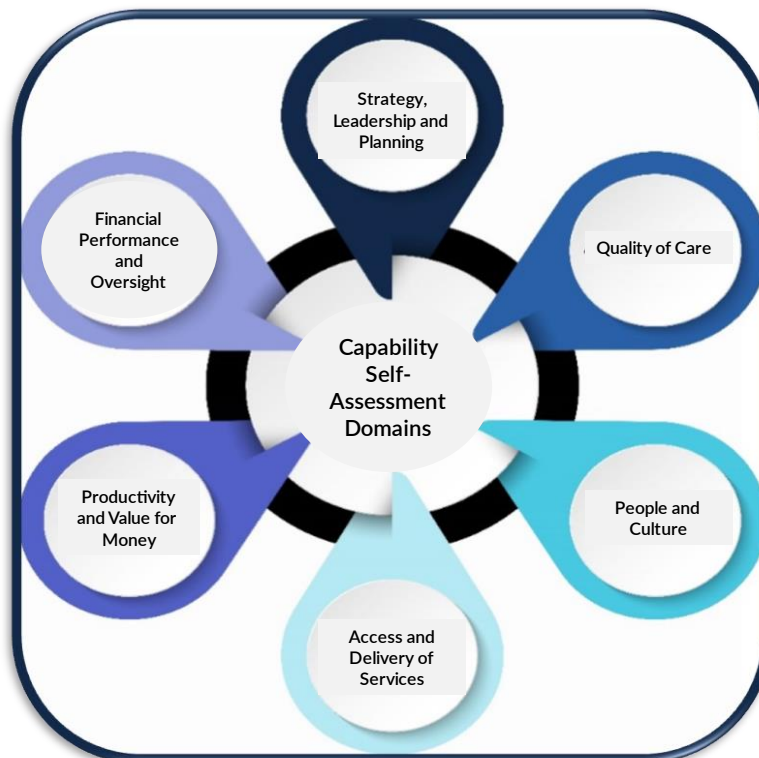
[NHS England's National Oversight Framework \(NOF\) Capability Self-Assessment](#) is a core component of the NOF and is designed to promote transparency, self-awareness, and continuous improvement within NHS trusts and foundation trusts.

Its aim is to enable NHS England to determine the level of external support or intervention required based on a trust's capability rating.

2 Requirements

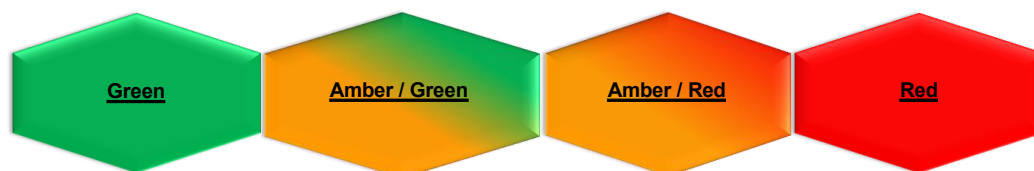
Trusts (both NHS trust and foundation trusts) are required to:

- 1) Complete an annual self-assessment using the published NHS England template
- 2) Assess their capability across six domains



- 3) As part of the assessment outline supporting evidence and conclude the organisation's position as either 'Confirmed' 'Partially Confirmed' or 'Not Met' for each Domain.
- 4) Where the organisation is unable to make a positive self-assessment the organisation needs to clearly outline the reasons why, the extent to which these reasons are outside the organisations control to address, how long the reasons have persisted, summary of any mitigations the organisation has or is taking and if not already shared a high level description of the organisation's action plans including deadlines and KPIs
- 5) Submit the completed self-assessments to their NHS England Region by 22nd October.

Following receipt of the assessments [guidance](#) states that NHS England's Oversight Teams will triangulate the self-assessment with other information sources and allocate each trust one of the following ratings:



This will then be used to monitor in year-performance with an expectation that trusts will update the Oversight Team if there are any material year end changes.

3 Assessing the trust's position

The self-assessment domains are taken from [The Insightful Provider Board](#) and closely align with the [Well-Led framework](#).

It is good practice for trusts to regularly review their leadership and governance. The assessment should be seen as an opportunity for objective self-reflection on the trust's capability against each domain. Any activities undertaken by Boards to assess their effectiveness should be considered when completing this self-assessment. Relevant examples that should be used to inform a Board's assessment are:

- Annual Board and Committee Effectiveness Reviews internal and external
- Well-Led Developmental Reviews
- CQC Inspection Reports specifically the Well-Led domain
- Annual Governance Statements and supporting evidence
- Board member skills audits and succession planning processes
- Internal audit reviews
- External audit reports including Value for Money conclusion
- Other third party inspections or reviews e.g. Royal College reports

- Board Assurance Framework and strategic risk management framework.

The above provides some examples of assurances that where available should inform the self-assessment but trusts are also expected to have developed specific approaches to gain relevant assurances as required.

[NHS England guidance](#) outlines criteria where organisations will not be able to make a positive self-assessment (i.e. Partially Confirmed or Not Met ratings):

- 1) “The board considers the risks in a specific areas to be too great” – The Board Assurance Framework should be seen as key document to support the assessment of this; or
- 2) The organisation “is already manifestly failing in a specific area (for example, delivery on access targets)” – The Board performance management framework including integrated performance report are key to assessment against this criteria

It is key that the Board agrees the self-assessment conclusions prior to submission to NHS England and the organisation should ensure time is made available to enable the Board to discuss the self-assessment.

4 Find out more

This Insight provides information to support NHS organisations in undertaking their NOF Capability Self-Assessment. It is intended to prompt and inform discussions.

MIAA offer a wide range of tailored services to support organisations in their leadership, risk and governance development. Our teams are experienced and independent and work across the NHS and wider public sector, bringing best practice from a wide range of settings.

For further information or to discuss how MIAA can support you please contact:

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