

Information Analysts' Development Programme

A high quality, structured programme for Information Analysts who will develop new skills to improve patient care.

Background

The role of the Information Analyst is evolving as technology improves user access to data (e.g. self-service reports from data warehouses) and Managers and Clinicians require more subtle and complex information to inform changes to practice. There is the opportunity for Analysts to build on skills of finding and collating data and presenting key information succinctly and clearly to help understand how data can answer difficult questions. The evolution of analysis sees Analysts using their skills to not only extract data but also to present a clear narrative which supports the improvement of healthcare.

The innovative and exciting Information Analysts' Development Programme, the first designed specifically for NHS Information Analysts, consists of six key elements, centred around a 10 day development programme.

The programme will be delivered by leaders in their fields from both industry and academia and will be a unique opportunity for both individual Analyst's career development and will support their organisation's ability to make clinical and organisation improvements by utilising data.

Benefits of attending

- Increased skills, knowledge and confidence
- Support for delivering a project of real value to your organisation
- Confidence in selecting from a range of tools and techniques and how to apply them to real-world NHS examples
- Professional development and membership of a supportive development network
- Organisations sending analysts will benefit from the rich experience participants will bring back, not only in new skills, but also in how they are utilised in practice to make a difference to patients, professionals and the organisation

Summary of content

The programme covers a number of themes:

- Understanding what information is required to answer the questions Managers and Clinicians ask to improve patient care
- Analytical techniques including application of relevant statistical models
- Tools for presenting data
- Tools for measuring improvement
- The use of Statistical Process Control to inform organisational decision making



What can I expect from the course?

The course will consist of ten days teaching with optional additional sessions that participants can undertake if they feel this would be useful. The programme will be delivered over around 20 weeks.

You will undertake a work-based project on an analysis in your own organisation. This will provide the opportunity to apply the tools and techniques covered in the course to support your work, presenting this analysis to your peers on day 11.

Don't worry if you are less confident in presenting as support, advice and training is included as part of the course.

There is no pass or fail, you will receive constructive feedback on your work that will help you with future analyses and projects.

Feedback from previous attendees has been excellent, with comments reflecting the usefulness of the practical nature of the course and real-world skills that can be applied to improve how we undertake analysis in the NHS. Evaluation shows an improvement in all of the 40 skills assessed when comparing post course to the pre course assessment.

What topics are being covered?

Day 1: Statistics day 1 – an introduction / recap of key principles behind practical statistical analysis

Day 2: Statistics day 2 – more involved statistical analysis

Day 3: The principles of information design – how to design tables, chart and use PowerPoint to present information to include in documents and presentations

Day 4: Arguing with numbers – how to present complex data succinctly using narratives (written documents)

Day 5: Data conversations – how to plan, initiate and conduct conversations about data

Day 6: Measurement for improvement – range of tools and techniques to measure changes in practice

Day 7: Capacity and demand – using process mapping and Statistical Process Control to define activity, capacity and demand and ideas for improving capacity and demand

Day 8: Stand and deliver – how to present data clearly and effectively (spoken / audio-visual presentations)

Day 9: Making Data Count – using Statistical Process Control to support decision making utilising an approach which is becoming standard and best practice

Final day: Participant presentations and next stages on professional development

The programme is delivered over around 20 weeks. Sometimes the order of some individual sessions may change due to speaker availability.

Optional days include foundation presentation skills and an overview of change management (including process analysis and redesign and benefits management).



What do I need to do if I'm interested in participating in the programme?

First discuss with your line manager as their support will be required before you are accepted on the programme. Once you have obtained support, please contact Glen (see below) to confirm availability and dates of the programme. Glen can also provide details of costs and details of delivery options as the programme can now be delivered on-line or on-site.

Where can I find out more information?

To find out more or to book a place, please contact Glen Howard, Programme Manager, Health Analytics and Informatics, EMAHSN
glen.howard@nhs.net / 07971 841778.

We have published an analysis of the impact of the course, demonstrating an improvement in all 40 areas assessed between pre and post course assessments. This can be accessed from <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/CGIJ-07-2015-0021>

Glen received the Training Programme Director of the Year Award at the 2016 NHS Health Education England Excellence in Education Awards East Midlands, for his work on the programme.

