

Understanding and improving the health of your population

How Dr Foster is delivering population health management



To deliver an effective population health management approach, data – and insight derived from that data – is the fundamental starting point.

Healthcare systems will only understand the right questions to ask if they first analyse the data to identify meaningful insights. This then enables better monitoring, improvement and an evolving service for their local population to manage demand and deliver the best outcomes.

What is population health management?

Population health management aims to improve the health outcomes of a group by identifying and monitoring individual patients within that group and providing a comprehensive clinical picture of these patients.

An effective population health programme brings together clinical, financial and operational data and provides actionable insights to help improve efficiency, patient care and the patient experience.



Working with our experts to understand your population's health needs

Dr Foster has been delivering population health analytics and services to our customers for a number of years. We have tried and tested methods of assessing the information available, linking disparate datasets, developing indicators and establishing frameworks to monitor and improve patient outcomes.

- Our team of analysts have a breadth of skills in advanced techniques such as machine learning, artificial intelligence, and clustering algorithms.
- With expertise in numerous health and care datasets, our analysts are adept at linking data and identifying insights to shape service redesign and transformation, including financial, patient experience, primary, mental health, community, contracting, and secondary care data, among others.
- We are experts in clinical benchmarking to identify unwarranted variation and areas for improvement.

- We can supplement the capacity in your analytical teams or upskill them to continue monitoring and delivering population health services.
- Our team of consultants has a deep understanding of local healthcare challenges and needs and provides comprehensive customer support.
- We work in a collaborative and transparent way, sharing information and methodologies where we can for the benefit of the NHS.

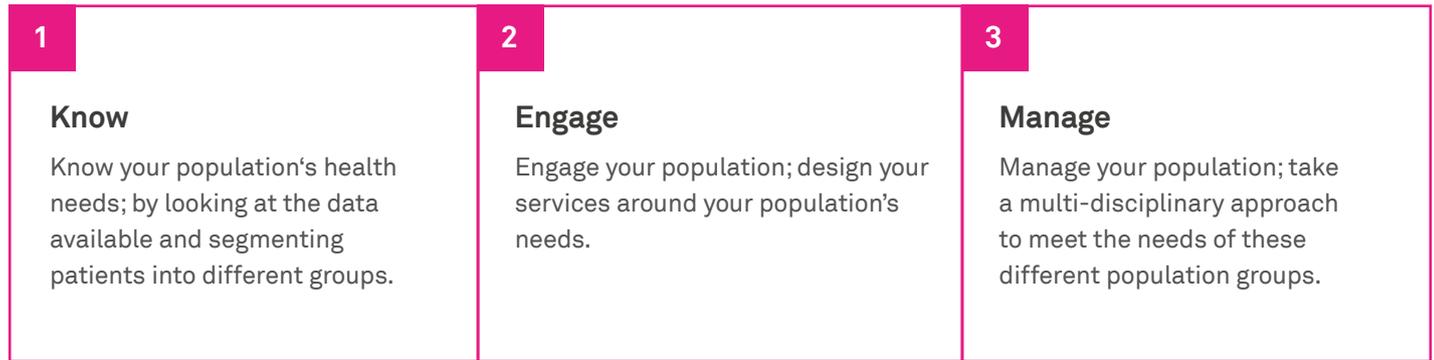
We also have extensive experience of working with healthcare systems internationally and sharing best practice from these systems with others.

Dr Foster works in partnership with the Dr Foster Unit at Imperial College London on developing new methodologies to assist healthcare improvement. It provides in-depth research and academic rigour to all our work including population health.

The Unit is currently working closely with the North West London collaboration of clinical commissioning groups on the Whole Systems Integrated Care information sharing network applying some of their expertise trajectory modelling and pathway analysis.

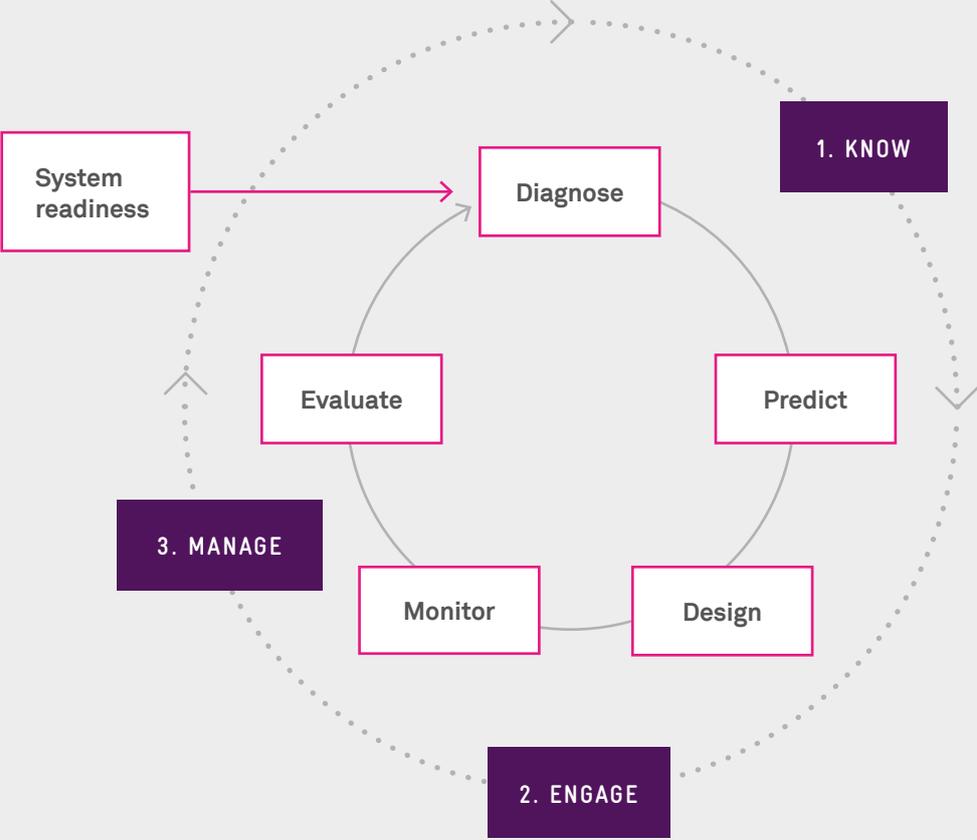


The National Association of Primary Care defines a three-step approach to population health management.



We can support healthcare systems on their journey towards population health management, through six analytical stages aligned to these three steps.

The population health analytics journey



STAGE 1.

System readiness

We will help you understand if your local area is ready for system working by assessing if:

- You have the necessary data and information capabilities for population health.
- Your data is of a sufficient quality for an integrated dataset.

STAGE 2.

Diagnose

We will help you diagnose how well you:

- Understand your population, its health needs and any health inequalities that need reducing.
- Understand the impact of the wider determinants of health (social, economic and environmental factors) on your population.
- Have identified the right cohorts of your population to focus on for new services and interventions.
- Know which subgroups of high-risk patients will be most amenable to different forms of preventive care.

STAGE 3.

Predict

We will help you predict:

- How much these cohorts of your population will cost in the future without changes.
- What impact you need to make to balance your system's control total.
- How these cohorts of your population may change in the future.

STAGE 4.

Design

We will help you design or identify:

- What interventions you need to implement to achieve the triple aim of improving patients' experience of care, improving health and reducing costs.
- What outcomes you want to achieve for these cohorts of patients and how you are going to measure them.
- What impact your interventions will have on your future cost trends.

STAGE 5.

Monitor

We will help you monitor patient outcomes and your financial position with the right tools in place.

STAGE 6.

Evaluate

We will help you evaluate the effectiveness of different interventions.

A flexible delivery approach

Our delivery approach is flexible and can include:

1. Single stage – A one-off analytics service to help you move to the next stage.
2. Combination – A combination of analytics services either together or at different stages.
3. Partner – Dr Foster as your analytics partner providing support at all stages of the process.

Demonstrating our capabilities

System readiness

Dr Foster delivered an independent review of business intelligence capabilities to ensure information is being used effectively throughout the Northern Care Alliance.

“Dr Foster’s independent view of capabilities within the information team was invaluable when it came to two organisations being brought together under the Northern Care Alliance. We were confident, from the previous support we’ve had from Dr Foster on analytical projects, that with the team’s skills and NHS experience, they would understand the role of our information team in providing business intelligence.”

Emma Wright, Director of Information & Business Intelligence, Northern Care Alliance

Diagnose

Dr Foster engaged with Bradford & Airedale clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to design and implement bespoke risk stratification and enhanced population health analytics including patient segmentation analysis.

Our analytical team linked primary and secondary care data and provided the segmentation analysis to enable a greater understanding of the patient characteristics that were drivers of demand on care services within the region, and an indication of the costs for these patient segments. This insight is supporting evidence-based decision making and targeted intervention to prevent hospital admissions.

“When the first report came back from Dr Foster it confirmed many of our assumptions around the cohort of patients who are being admitted non-electively to hospital. This included frail elderly patients with multiple long term conditions and patients on multiple (5+) medications. The report also identified a number of patients admitted with conditions such as urinary tract infections, and skin and tissue infections and our ‘out of hospital’ programme is currently reviewing this to look at ways in which admissions could potentially be reduced.

“Dr Foster has currently provided a report for one of our community partnerships. These are groups of GP practices who are working together to improve the health services of their local communities covering populations between 30,000 and 50,000. This report has been very well received and as a result we are now in discussion with Dr Foster about producing these reports for the other 13 community partnerships across Bradford district and Craven.”

**Darren Rushton, Head of Programme Analytics,
Bradford City and Districts CCG**

Monitor

Dr Foster provided business intelligence solutions to Chorley and Preston CCGs on their Commissioning for Value pack information to identify variation and ways in which their services could be provided differently to improve patient care.

“Dr Foster has been instrumental in providing in-depth business intelligence to investigate our commissioner challenges and understand variation in our local health economy. Having more granular insight enables us to review a suite of metrics across the domains of quality and efficiency, helping us to have productive conversations with providers and challenge variation. Their information specialist has investigated a number of alerts, one specifically in relation to elective spend on the treatment of coronary heart disease, allowing us to work with all relevant stakeholders to better understand and address the challenge.”

**Helen Curtis, Director of Quality and Performance,
NHS Chorley & South Ribble and Greater Preston CCG**

Contact us

For more information on population health management, please contact us:

DFinfo@health.telstra.com

020 7332 8800