

Additional File 1: Summary of outcome variables, indicators, and data collection methods*

Variable	Definition	Method	Final Study Indicators
Primary Outcome Variables			
Evidence of impact on quality of care	Evidence that networks have made an improvement to the safety, effectiveness, appropriateness, accessibility, efficiency, and patient-centred nature of care. Improvements will be illustrated with direct evidence of changes in practice or using patient-level data to illustrate a change. Impacts may relate to a single network activity or a combination of a number of network quality improvement activities. These impacts need to have arisen from quality improvement activities conducted by the networks between 2006 and 2008.	Rating of network impact by expert panel (informed by a review of documented evidence of impact provided by networks following an interview with network executives, co-chairs, and managers).	Median score from expert panel The median of the ratings of the five experts was used with a scale of 1 – 9. Network scores 1 – 3 indicated limited impact on quality of care, scores 4 – 6 indicated moderate impact, and scores 7 – 9 indicated an extensive/high impact.
Evidence of impact on system-wide change	The adoption of network quality improvement activities on a larger scale, making improvements to the wider health system. Such implementation of changes could be on a moderate scale or across an entire system and could vary with the innovation being scaled up, the issue it addressed, and the context in which the change was being initiated. Impacts may relate to a single network activity or a combination of a number of network quality improvement activities. System-wide change will be illustrated with direct evidence of changes in practice. These impacts need to have arisen from quality improvement activities conducted between 2006 and 2008.	Rating of network impact by expert panel (informed by a review of documented evidence of impact provided by networks following an interview with network executives, co-chairs, and managers).	Median score from expert panel The median of the ratings of the five experts was used with a scale of 1 – 9. Network scores 1 – 3 indicated limited impact on system-wide change, scores 4 – 6 indicated moderate impact, and scores 7 – 9 indicated an extensive/high impact.
Secondary Outcome Variables			
Developed and implemented quality-improvement activities	Creating and planning a range of quality improvement activities to improve the provision of evidenced-based care. These quality improvement activities will have been fully developed and implemented as of 31 st December 2008. These quality improvement activities related to any of the following categories: models of care, clinical guidelines, care protocols, policy development, system or process, training & education for implementation into practice, advocacy, data	Document audit of network meeting minutes verified with interviews and viewing of secondary documents and communication with Network Managers.	Total number of quality improvement activities completed by each network.

	collection & monitoring systems, workforce improvement initiatives, consumer resources, clinical research and scholarship, and quality-improvement evaluation.		
Clinician Engagement	<p>Engaging clinicians in networks is a fundamental part of their existence. A strong theme that emerged from a qualitative study [14] conducted with NSW stakeholders of networks was that of connecting and engaging clinicians in networks in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interdisciplinary collaboration • Collaboration with consumers • Engagement with rural/remote sector 	<p>Document audit of network meeting minutes and ACI records of network members</p> <p>Internet survey</p> <p>Separate analyses were conducted using Engagement of clinicians - number of members (from document review) and perceived engagement of clinicians – internet survey summary score (from internet survey) as the outcome variables.</p>	<p><u>Obtained from document audit (engagement of clinicians):</u></p> <p>Number of members per network</p> <p><u>Obtained from internet survey (perceived engagement of clinician):</u></p> <p>A network wide mean was calculated from the total scores of the perceived engagement of clinicians domain of the internet survey which was completed by network members (Likert scale):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of hours devoted to network quality improvement activities in last 6 months (estimate of time) • Perceived commitment to network and belief in the work it undertakes • Perceived ability to contribute to driving the network agenda • Perceived contribution of views and ideas to network quality improvement activities
Perceived as valuable	Perceptions about the worth of the ACI clinical networks, including the belief that the networks have the scope to make a contribution to health service provision in NSW.	Internet survey	<p>A range of response options on questions relating to Perceived value of the network by individuals linked to each network :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception that the network has improved quality of care • Perception that the network has improved patient outcomes • Perception that the network has led to system improvements • Likelihood of recommending colleagues join the clinical network • Perception that network involvement helps professionally

NSW = New South Wales; ACI = NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation (statutory health organisation that is responsible for the clinical networks); *This table has been updated since first published (Haines M et al. *Determinants of successful clinical networks: the conceptual framework and study protocol*. Implement Sci, 2012. 7: p 16). There are discrepancies between the initial indicative pilot

indicators and what was feasible to collect with accuracy in the main study. Henceforth, consider this updated table to be the final record of what was measured in the study. Specifically, we did not measure whether networks 'leveraged additional resources'. We also changed the term 'network initiatives' to 'network quality improvement activities'.