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Clinical Audit

Clinical Effectiveness & Assurance











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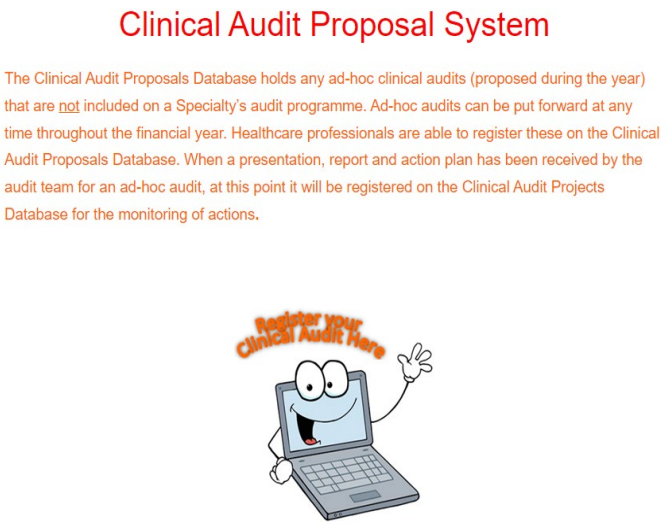
What is Clinical Audit?

- Clinical Audit is a process for improving the quality of care delivered by measuring current practice against standards or guidelines e.g. NICE, RCEM, UHCW.

- Audit asks, ‘Are we doing what we should be doing? If not, make a change’.

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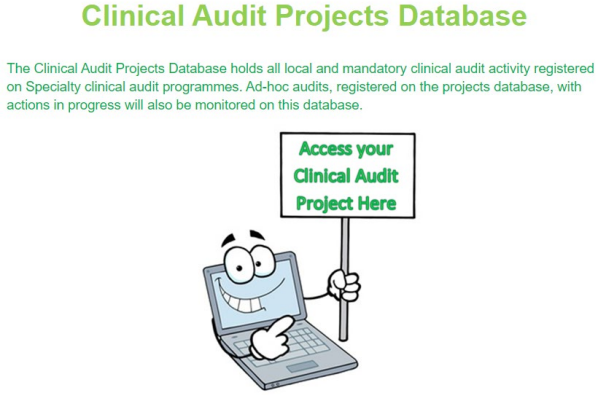
Clinical Audit Proposal Database



- The Proposal form can be found on TrustNav by searching 'Clinical Audit'.
- A proposal form MUST be completed with an UHCW email address.
- Standard or guideline to be audited MUST be uploaded.
- Provide a copy of specific standards and draft proforma (data collection tool).
- Once the proposal has been submitted, it will be reviewed by the audit team.
- When the audit has been completed and presented e.g. at QIPS, the presentation, UHCW report and populated action plan are uploaded.
- This will be reviewed by the audit team.
- Certificates for participation are distributed, which enhances your portfolio.

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Clinical Audit Project Database



- The project database contains all local and mandatory audits which have been registered.
- All audits will have a populated action plan outlining recommendations and the action required to make an improvement (see figure below).
- The audit team monitor the implementation of these recommendations.

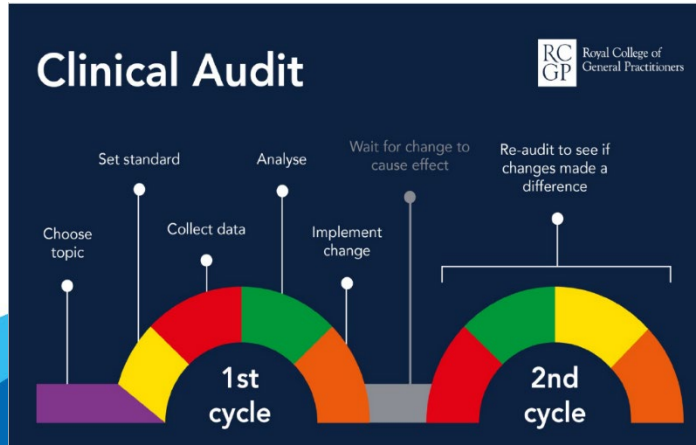
No	Recommendation	Actions required *(specify "None", if none required)*	Action by date	Person responsible *(Name and job title)*	Comments/action status	Change stage Refer to Key	Anticipated Measure of Benefit
Eg	*All orthopaedic surgeons should use the approved "Pentel" indelible pen to mark patients*	*Distribute "Pentel" indelible pens to all orthopaedic surgeons*	*31/12/11*	*Richard King (Cons)*	*70 Pentel marker pens distributed to all orthopaedic surgeons and clinical areas, along with a letter outlining the recommendations of this audit. Complete by 31st Dec 2011*	*3*	***Improved levels of safety*** *By providing clinicians with the correct pens, the chance of a patient's skin mark being washed off is minimised*
Eg	*'Patient Satisfaction Survey' to ensure that the patients agree with the revised standards and are happy with the current service offered*	*Design a simple Patient Satisfaction Survey based on the revised standards.* *Get approval from Clinical Director* *Secure funding for postage from budget*	*01/06/12*	*Specialist Nurse*		*1*	***Patient and staff experience / Effectiveness of Care /Links to Performance*** *Would enable nurses to ensure that they are meeting the patients needs*

Clinical Audit Cycle

- **Selecting a Topic** – The clinical audit topic should reflect a local service or national priority which requires evaluation where care could be improved.

- **Set Standard** – Involves identifying specific standards within a chosen guideline. This is used to measure current practice against.
  E.g. NICE Guidance, local guidelines

Criterion	Standard	Exception
All patients should be seen by the CNS during their diagnosis appointment	100%	If the patient has been seen in the private sector for the diagnosis appointment.



Clinical Audit Cycle

- **Data collection** - Prospectively, patient notes, questionnaires, observations
  Data should be collected in the form of a proforma (data collection tool).

- **Data Analysis -** Data should be analysed based off the criterions and the standard specified. This should be presented in the forms of percentages. When the standard was not met, the reason why should be documented.

- **Implement Change –** An action plan must be created that allows actions to be put into place to improve the gaps in practice where the standards are not met.

Clinical Audit Cycle

- **Re-Audit –** Happens after a sufficient about of time has passed after the implementation of change has occurred. The re-audit should be the exact copy of the initial audit and will demonstrate if practice has improved in compliance.
  Requires you to submit a new audit proposal form.

Required Documentation

Upon completion of your Clinical Audit, the following documents are needed:

- Presentation
- Report and Action Plan (in the required template)
- Patient List
- Copy of your data collection tool.

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Understanding the Difference Between Clinical Audit and Other Activity…



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Research, Audit and Service Evaluation

Research

- Designed to generate new generalisable knowledge and is used to test a specific hypothesis.

Clinical Audit

- Designed to identify if care is being delivered in line with best practice.

Service Evaluation

- Designed to assess how well a service is achieving its intended aim without measuring against a standard or guideline.



IMPROVE CARE

Clinical audit can be used to assure or improve patient care and safety. Most textbooks suggest that local clincial audit, when conducted by small teams and that focuses on problem solving tend to have the most beneficial impact. However, national audits are also improving patient care



KEEP YOU UP-TO-DATE

Clinical audit measures current care against agreed best practice. In a nutshell, audit tells us if we are doing what we should be doing. With this in mind the logical starting point for any audit project is to locate best practice: NICE guidance, World Health Organisation advice, local protocols, operating procedures, etc.



ENHANCE YOUR SKILL SET

Participation in a clinical audit can enhance your skill-set in many ways. For example, you may take the leadership role and project manage the audit. You may need to use mathematical and IT skills to select your sample and results. You may need to motivate others to change and write effective action plans and reports.

Benefits of Being Involved



SATISFY THE CQC

The Care Quality Commission are increasingly using clincial audit to measure the effectiveness of healthcare. As part of this process the CQC clearly evaluate audit projects and delivery against HQIP's best practice documents. It is not about ticking a box, the CQC want evidence of high quality audits that improve patient care.



HELP QUALITY ACCOUNTS

Quality Accounts are public documents that emerged following Lord Darzi's review of the NHS. All healthcare providers must produce annual Quality Accounts and they must include evidence of local and national audits. Again, as with the CQC, evidence of robust and effective audit is invaluable.



SUPPORT REVALIDATION

Doctors must undertake one quality improvement project every five years and audit will help them meet that requirement. In much the same way, audit will help nurses meet their appraiser's revalidation expectations by illustrating that they have reflected on the care they give and tried to improve it.

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Contacts

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