



Leaflet 1

A Quick Guide to Clinical Audit

Undertaking a Clinical Audit at NHSBT

1. Topic

Discuss or develop your idea with clinical audit staff ready for approval.



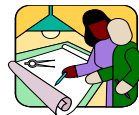
2. Identify stakeholders

Identify key stakeholders and ensure that they are aware of the clinical audit.



3. Protocol / Plan

Complete a protocol / planning template (FRM3720) - guidance is available from clinical audit staff.



4. Support

Discuss available support with a member of clinical audit staff and submit your proposal for approval.



5. Data

Collect and analyse your data.



6. Present

Discuss results with stakeholders and develop recommendations.



7. Report

Write report and present results.



8. Action

Develop a final action plan with the stakeholders which details what action will be taken to improve practice.



How to obtain support for Clinical Audit Projects

All clinical audits should be approved by the relevant group / committee and be registered on Q-Pulse. To do this, you will need to submit a clinical audit protocol / planning template (FRM3720) that can be completed with help from a member of the clinical audit team.

Further information about clinical audit is available from SharePoint on the clinical audit pages: <https://nhsbloodandtransplant.sharepoint.com/sites/Clinical/SitePages/Clinical%20Audit.aspx> where full details of all completed clinical audit reports can be found (accessed 28th October 2024). All leaflets in this series (INF450-INF460) are available via the controlled document library on NHSBT Intranet (Link)

Leaflet developed from an original idea by UBHT NHS Trust Clinical Audit Department.

INF450/1.8
EFFECTIVE: 15/11/2024

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Quick Guide to Clinical Audit in NHSBT

Clinical Audit is a quality improvement tool that allows organisations and individuals to measure and improve their practice. It has been defined by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership¹ as:

“...a quality improvement process that seeks to improve practice and outcomes through systematic review of practice against explicit criteria and the implementation of change...”

Clinical audit aims to measure the difference between ideal practice (determined from evidence and guidelines) and actual practice.

Clinical audit does not seek to apportion blame on individual practitioners but aims to improve the systems in which individuals work. Done correctly, it can effect improvement to practice and clinical effectiveness.

In 1998, clinical governance brought quality to the forefront of the NHS agenda. It gave NHS organisations a statutory duty to improve and monitor the quality of service they provide. All health professionals have a responsibility to be involved in improving practice. Clinical audit is an aspect of clinical governance; a tool to improve and monitor practice.

Within NHSBT, the Directorate CARE² groups are responsible for prioritising clinical audit projects and monitoring the completion of action plans.

The NHSBT CARE group (chaired by the Medical Director and attended by representatives from each directorate) reviews summaries of all reports and follows up uncompleted or disputed actions.

¹ New Principles of Best Practice in Clinical Audit, Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (2010).

The Clinical Audit Cycle

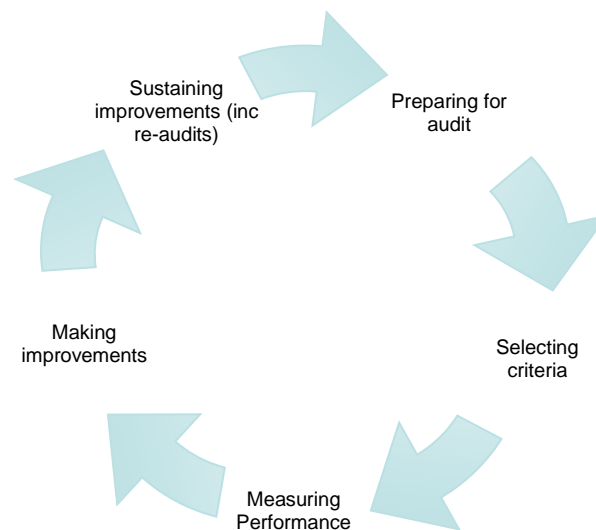


Diagram adapted from Royal College of Pathologists – Clinical Audit

Benefits to Health Professionals

- Provides workable standards
- Improves and increases teamworking
- Ensures appropriate use of skills and resources
- Increases knowledge and skills
- Identifies training needs
- Measures quality in current practice

Benefits to Patients / Donors

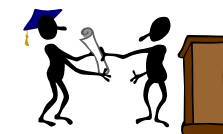
- Improves quality of care and service received
- Highlights precise donor/patient needs
- Involves donors/patients in decision-making
- Raises donor / patient confidence in service
- Provides information about care and risks involved

The Clinical Audit Team offers help and support with the following areas:

- **Designing and planning** clinical audit projects.
- **Searching for literature**, guidelines, and standards.
- **Setting audit objectives** and standards.
- **Analysing data** by comparing the results with the standards.
- **Presenting** clinical audit results through report writing, presentations and posters.
- **Developing action plans** to facilitate the change process.

Clinical Audit Training

Two training packages are offered to meet the needs of all NHSBT staff: -



- **Introductory Workshop** – for those with no or little clinical audit experience.
- **Advanced Workshop** – an in-depth workshop for those who have previous clinical audit experience.

To register, or for more information contact the Clinical Audit Team via email at clinical.audit@nhsbt.nhs.uk

² CARE: Clinical Audit, Risk and Effectiveness