

*Promoting quality for
better health services*



Clinical Audit as a central part of national programmes to improve quality: potential for development of audit across Europe

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What I will do in this presentation

- **Give a brief introduction to HQIP**
- **Overview Clinical Audit in the UK and how it drives quality**
- **Look at how audit could be developed in Europe**

HQIP's role and aims

- HQIP is not a membership body. There is no cross-disciplinary quality improvement association in the UK, although HQIP is exploring how one could be set up.
- HQIP is a charity owned by medical and nursing professional bodies, with a national patient group
- Its aims are to re-invigorate clinical audit (CA) (programme funded by Ministry of Health)
- To promote other professionally led quality improvement methods (QI)



Clinical audit

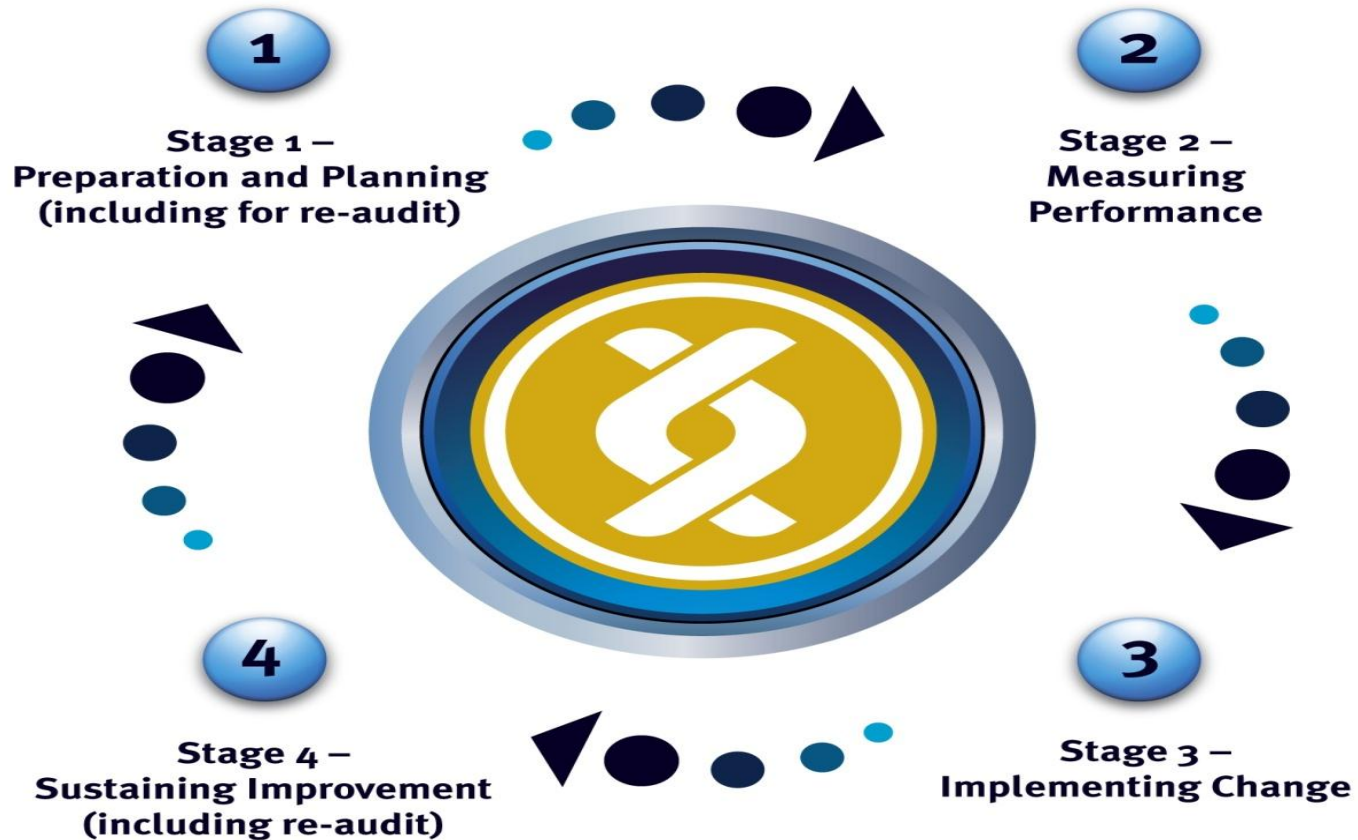
- A quality improvement process
- Care is measured and compared against standards based on proven evidence
- Changes are made to improve compliance
- Care is re-measured
- Good audit is a dynamic cycle of measurement, analysis of findings, developing action plans to change practice and then monitoring of continuing improvement



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The clinical audit cycle



The UK programme: detail

National audits

- On behalf of Government, HQIP commissions >30 national audits covering many major health issues and procedures (many others not funded by Government)
- We help these audits to be effective and to encourage change in local practice
- Local health staff and organisations are encouraged to participate through their professional bodies and government, and checked whether they have acted in response

A national audit in Britain

- National Hip Fracture Database aims to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of hip fracture care and rehabilitation; to promote secondary prevention through the improved treatment of osteoporosis, and programmes to prevent further falls; and to provide a platform for large-scale clinical trials on hip fracture care.
- **Key quality indicators NHFD:**
- Prompt admission to orthopaedic care
- Early surgery – within 48 hours
- Avoidance of pressure ulcers
- Acute orthogeriatric medical care
- A rigorous approach to assessment and treatment of osteoporosis with bone protection therapy
- Features: web based data input, a central analytic function, and the distribution by web of continuous feedback to participating units, who are paid to take part



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And as well.....

- **A mix of encouragement and requirement:**
- Improving the skills of clinicians and others to carry out audit:
- In person and on-line support and networking
- Commissioning and improving training (standards, curricula, tutorials, resources etc)
- Printed and web based resources and learning for all aspects of organising and running audits
- Recruiting clinical leaders for audit who promote the method
- Helping others create regulatory processes that encourage/demand audit
- Encouraging management support for audit
- Building patient interest in audit



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What have we achieved?

- Improved skill, confidence and attitude to audit
- All clinicians have to audit in order to practice: we support them to want to do audit and be more capable and confident in doing so
- Provider organisation management have to have a good audit programme and this is inspected; but they see its value
- We do not know the degree to which audit activity is reflected in outcomes (see <http://www.hqip.org.uk/literature-on-the-effectiveness-of-clinical-audit/>)

Clinical audit in Europe

- We do not think there is very much national audit in countries in Europe
- There is very little Europe-wide clinical audit (although there are radiology (European Council Directive 97/43/Euratom) and respiratory examples)
- There are variable amounts of local clinical audit practised within individual countries – we don't know



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EU directive

- European Commission (EC) directive 97/43/EURATOM (MED) [European Commission, 1997] RADIOLOGICAL practices - EU Member States are required to implement clinical audits “in accordance with national procedures”
- The EC guidelines [European Commission 2009] provide a general framework for the Member States in order to establish sustainable national systems of clinical auditing of RADIOLOGICAL practices (diagnostic radiology, nuclear medicine and radiotherapy) – but each local audit is separate, although of the same things.



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A multi-state audit

- The European COPD audit
- <http://www.erscopdaudit.org/contents/show/type/3>
- Builds from the UK COPD audit, led by a college of medicine
- Involves the **European Respiratory Society and local respiratory societies**
- Involves: Austria, UK, Slovakia, Poland, Belgium, Greece, Spain, Switzerland, Croatia, Romania, Malta, Turkey and Rep. of Ireland
- One audit, data from all areas analysed centrally

What more could be developed?

- Any country/clinical group within it could develop a national programme - HQIP is able to share its expertise with anyone on request – all website material can be translated with acknowledgement
- However we would like to see the development of cross-European interest in audit – perhaps a European audit group to promote audit.
- We would like to see more EU support for audit
- More cross-European audits, or audits at local level based on shared templates, could be created out of expanded European networks

If you do want to develop audit in your area

- **Set out a strategy: use a variety of methods**
- **Step 1:** Ensure there is agreement on what constitutes best practice. This sets a marker of quality and will improve the way audit is carried out. HQIP resources could be used
- **Step 2:** Support and encourage training and motivate use of good audit practice in local practice.
- Find clinical leaders
- Help local people to network/share

- Encourage professional bodies to be the centres of excellence in audit, promoting audit or making it a requirement for their members.
- Encourage/Help prof bodies to organise audits amongst their members on matters of interest.
- With prof bodies, consider whether a national/regional audit of a key topic might attract central funding (Government, charity, Pharma) to support national aims
- Engage national patients groups to get involved

Contact us

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