

*Promoting quality for
better health services*



Defining criteria for good quality audit

Robin Burgess/Kim Rezel

Why definition is needed

- There is still great diversity in ideas about what audit is and what marks high quality audit
- Audit data has a role in revalidation, appraisal, service accreditation and other quality assessment processes

Why definition is needed

- The quality of specific audits needs to be assessed for the purposes of appraisal, hence the need for definition of audit quality
- A definition sets a standard, an aspiration and a benchmark for professional quality for its own sake

Wider work

- The definition is the cornerstone of HQIP's strategy for audit re-invigoration
- It will underpin work with other professional groups to come

Wider work

- It will support a new programme, being launched and run by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, into the definition of quality in audit by Doctors (and their teams) for revalidation and service accreditation purposes

HQIP'S work plan

- Desk based research
- Consultation with audit professionals and clinicians
- Consultation with patients
- Draft criteria
- Wider consultation
- NCAAG and DH approval

Work so far

- Focus groups
 - February consultations
- Patient focus group
 - HQIP's patient network

NEXT STAGE

- Wider consultation
 - Via email/website

Timeframe

- **MAY**
 - Wider consultation
- **JUNE**
 - Finalise criteria for quality audit
 - NCAAG Board meeting
- **JULY**
 - DH approval

Contact details

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What the patients said

- NAMED team accountable for clinical audit
- Training should include mentoring for the patients who are involved in the strategic planning at the preparatory stage
- PPI when monitoring change after the audit.

What the patients said

- The stakeholders involved include active local charities
- Agreement by trust on how data will be used and how change will be implemented at the beginning of the process
- Protocol in place to feedback to those that participated in the audit

What the patients said

- Reports must be understood by patient audience
- Transparency critical
- Who chooses a patient champion? To have validity should be selected by a patient group
- Patient reps remunerated for their role in development

Workshop

- To what degree should audit be judged on whether it achieves changes in practice?
- Can the same criteria support national and local clinical audit projects?

Workshop

- Can the criteria be prioritised?
- How do we involve patients in the overall process of clinical audit?

The clinical audit process

