Overview

This standard is about facilitating the clinical audit process. It covers the technical support that is provided to individuals and teams who are responsible for carrying out audits. Individuals and teams may include clinicians and/or non-clinicians.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

P1 support individuals and teams responsible for carrying out clinical audits to identify and prioritise the focus of the work

P2 support individuals and teams responsible for carrying out clinical audits to agree audit standards based on recognised best practice

P3 establish and agree the design of the clinical audit project with the audit lead, including an appropriate sample size and data collection process

P4 help individuals and teams responsible for carrying out clinical audits to locate, abstract and analyse the audit data

P5 where necessary, undertake agreed aspects of the clinical audit process on behalf of the individuals and teams responsible for carrying out clinical audits

P6 support individuals and teams responsible for carrying out clinical audits to present or otherwise disseminate the audit findings to relevant persons

P7 support individuals and teams responsible for carrying out clinical audits to formulate and implement an action plan to improve practice based on the findings of the audit

P8 support individuals and teams responsible for carrying out clinical audits to produce a final report and implement recommendations

P9 support individuals and teams responsible for carrying out clinical audits to re-audit as part of the continuous audit process

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

K1	the relevant legislation, policies, procedures, codes of practice and guidelines in relation to clinical audit
K2	the professional codes of ethics relevant to your work, including those of other professions you are working with
K3	the health and business context for data, information and knowledge requirements
K4	the care delivery process in the area of work you are focussing your attention on
K5	the organisational requirements for on-going audit programmes
K6	the importance of effective information governance including; confidentiality, consent, data protection, security and privacy
K7	the different ways in which data, information and knowledge are used in care
K8	the information systems used in your organisation
K9	current developments in the application of systems relevant to your work
K10	the ways in which clinicians and other users interact with systems
K11	the types of clinical audits there may be in your area of practice
K12	how service and quality improvement work is initiated and how to make links with those staff and projects
K13	the ways in which clinicians and non-clinicians are appointed or volunteer as auditors
K14	the use of clinical audit methodologies
K15	the roles of individuals and teams responsible for carrying out audits
K16	the support which you can provide to individuals and teams responsible for carrying out audits
K17	the limitations of the audit process
K18	the importance of discussing and clarifying audit recommendations and resulting action plans
K19	the types of conflicts which may occur due to audit recommendations and how these should be handled
K20	the difference between audit and research
K21	how to identify best practice based on evidence (clinical effectiveness)
K22	how clinical audit should lead to improvement in healthcare practice
K23	the reasons why it is necessary to identify risks involved in audit recommendations

Additional Information

External Links   This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: Core 5 Quality

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