WHAT IS HEALTHCARE AUDIT?

Cora McCaughan, Assistant National Director, Healthcare Audit, Quality Assurance & Verification

WHO WE ARE

The Healthcare Audit (HCA) Team was created in 2010 to provide internal independent assurance for health and social care services. Healthcare audit is a catalyst to promote good governance as it concerns quality and patient safety. Healthcare audit contributes to the HSE assurance framework by auditing the degree to which standards for health and social care activity are met across the system. The provision of this assurance service is the primary role of healthcare audit in the HSE and is similar to that of internal audit assurance for financial and HR services.

WHAT WE DO

We are a service that supports frontline healthcare staff in promoting best practice and obtaining safe outcomes for our patients. We assist the HSE in achieving its objectives by:

- Providing valuable and reliable information to inform decision making
- Testing the effectiveness of internal controls that are identified to manage risk
- Providing evidence for managers in relation to signing the Statement of Internal Control
- Identifying good practice for sharing, learning and implementing across the system

If Healthcare Audits identify non-compliance with standards, this triggers quality improvement actions.

CONTACT US

Healthcare Audit Office, Quality Assurance and Verification, Room G.33, Dr. Steevens’ Hospital, Dublin 8
Ph. 01-6352080 or 087 1199423
Email:- deborah.kavanagh@hse.ie
www.hse.ie/eng/about/qavd/

Did you know?

Summary National Healthcare Audit reports are published to the HSE website. A snapshot of audits undertaken by the HCA Team includes:

- Audit of Compliance with the Irish Paediatric Early Warning System - National Clinical Guideline No. 12
- Audit of Compliance with Section 7 of the National Ambulance Service (NAS) Policy on Controlled Drugs (including morphine sulphate and midazolam) (2011)
- Audit of compliance with Section 7.2.3 of the Safety Incident Management Policy (2014) in relation to the decision not to proceed to investigation of serious reportable events (SREs)
- Audit of National Open Disclosure Policy in selected sites
- Audit of the implementation of informed consent and supported decision-making practices as per Part 1 of the National Consent Policy (2014)
- Audit of the justification process in diagnostic radiology
- Audit of learning from adverse incidents and near misses in selected acute hospital groups

Please see www.hse.ie/eng/about/qavd/ for a full list of audits undertaken by the HCA team.