TWELVE TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL CLINICAL AUDIT

1. Keep audits simple

2. Get everyone involved

3. Determine the topic

4. Have a plan

5. Do not confuse clinical audit with research

6. Do not collect needless data

7. Take care with statistics – errors can lead to inaccurate conclusions

8. Close all clinical audit loops

9. Keep data only for as long as it is needed

10. Share learning - tell everyone about your audit

11. Tell ‘The Organisation’ about your audit

12. Re-audit to ensure improvement in clinical care
2. The five stage approach to clinical audit

2.6 Summary – The five stage approach to clinical audit

The Stages of Clinical Audit

Stage 1 - Planning for audit
- Involving stakeholders
- Determining the audit topic
- Planning the delivery of audit fieldwork

Stage 2 - Standard and criteria selection
- Identification of standards and audit criteria
- Selecting and developing appropriate performance levels
- Inclusion/exclusion criteria
- Exceptions

Stage 3 - Measuring performance
- Data collection
- Data analysis – measure actual performance against standard
- Drawing conclusions
- Presentation of results

Stage 4 - Making improvements
- Development of quality improvement plans (QIPs)

Stage 5 - Sustaining improvements
- Monitoring the quality improvement plan
- Performance indicators
- Dissemination and celebrating success
- Remember - close the loop - re-audit