

## What are the Stages of Clinical Audit?

- 1. Selecting a Clinical Audit Topic**  
A topic is an area of practice that needs to be checked. It can be about what was needed, what was done or what was expected to happen to ensure high quality care.
- 2. Identifying Standards**  
Involves finding the latest evidence of best practice or looking for experts recommendations about the topic.
- 3. Collecting Data**  
Means reviewing medical records, observing healthcare professionals do their work or asking patients and families about their care experience.
- 4. Measuring Performance**  
Comparing the care given to patients to latest standards using simple mathematical analysis.
- 5. Implementing Change**  
Making improvements if result falls below the standards.
- 6. Repeating the Audit**  
Wait for change to happen, then repeat the audit to monitor progress and confirm improvements.

## How to contact us

If you require further information you can contact us by post, email or phone.

### By post to:

Clinical Audit Office  
Quality and Safety Department  
Connolly Hospital  
Blanchardstown  
Dublin 15

### By email to:

[ClinicalAudit.chb@hse.ie](mailto:ClinicalAudit.chb@hse.ie)

### Or calling:

01 - 646 5468

## Did you find this leaflet helpful?

Let us know if you have any suggestions as to how we could improve.



**Connolly Hospital**  
Blanchardstown

## Clinical Audit

Making sure that you receive high quality care based on the latest standards



## Information for Patients

Empowerment | Involvement | Satisfaction



**RCSI HOSPITAL GROUP**  
GRÚPA OSPIDÉAL RCSI

## What is a Clinical Audit?



A **Clinical audit** is one of the ways healthcare professionals check that the care they provide to patients is safe and effective based on the latest standards of care.

Doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals do clinical audit as part of their responsibilities to check that the care they provide is on par with latest standards.

A clinical audit involves selecting an area of practice that needs to be checked. It does not involve checking up on the individual healthcare worker performance or reviewing the care given to a particular patient.

If the audit results show areas that could be improved then changes are made and the audit is repeated to monitor progress and confirm improvement.

## Privacy and Confidentiality



We may use information contained in your healthcare record in order to carry out a clinical audit.

You will not be contacted directly and you do not need to give your consent if we use your healthcare information for a clinical audit.

This is because your name and personal details will not be included in the audit findings and audit report.

Sometimes a clinical audit involves **patients** taking an **active part in the audit process** and your personal details are an important part of the audit. In this type of audit you will be asked to give your **consent**.

## Types of Clinical Audit



There are different ways to do a clinical audit:

- ✓ Reviewing patients healthcare records.
- ✓ Observing healthcare professionals do their work.
- ✓ **Asking patients and families about their care experience.**

*"I was asked to take part in a clinical audit. I was delighted to answer questions because it was good to know that my experience might help the service and it is reassuring that they are looking to always improve the care that they give". - Patient*

*can help them decide on areas that needed to be improved". - Patient*

*improve service through my feedback and experience". - Patient*