Achieving quality assurance through clinical audit

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Audit is a crucial component of improvements to the quality of patient care. Clinical audits are undertaken to help ensure that patients can be given safe, reliable and dignified care, and to encourage them to self-direct their recovery. Such audits are undertaken also to help reduce lengths of patient stay in hospital, readmission rates and delays in discharge. This article describes the stages of clinical audit and the support required to achieve organisational core values.

Nursing Management. 17, 3, 28-35. doi: 10.7748/nm2010.06.17.3.28.c7800

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Peer review
This article has been subject to double blind peer review

Keywords:
Audit - best practice - criteria - standards - quality

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Audit is a crucial component of improvements to the quality of patient care. Clinical audits are undertaken to help ensure that patients can be given safe, reliable and dignified care, and to encourage them to self-direct their recovery. Such audits are undertaken also to help reduce lengths of patient stay in hospital, readmission rates and delays in discharge. This article describes the stages of clinical audit and the support required to achieve organisational core values. Whereas quality assurance system audits include audits of central lab and service providers, computerised data collection system, monitoring system, IP management and distribution system, document management and archiving and sponsor’s pharmacovigilance system.