WJ HEALTHCARE

GUIDANCE ON AUDIT

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Document Control

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NHS ENGLAND CLINICAL AUDIT DEFINITION

'Clinical audit is a way to find out if healthcare is being provided in line with standards and lets care providers and patients know where their service is doing well, and where there could be improvements.

The aim is to allow quality improvement to take place where it will be most helpful and will improve outcomes for patients. Clinical audits can look at care nationwide (national clinical audits) and local clinical audits can also be performed locally in trusts, hospitals or GP practices anywhere healthcare is provided (1)'

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU

The GMC have outlined in their work on supporting information for revalidation what is expected of all doctors practicing in the UK, in order to maintain a license to practice. This is summarised below.

'You must take part in regular reviews and audits of your work, and your team's work. This includes taking part in any national audit or outcome review if one is being conducted in your area of practice. You must reflect on the outcomes of these audits or reviews, even if you are unable to participate directly.'

WHAT THIS MEANS IN THE INDEPENDENT SECTOR

It can be challenging in the independent to gain access to national audits, but it is relatively straight forward to identify national standards for example in procedures one carries out or complication rates. WJ Healthcare encourages all its member doctors to identify these where applicable and compare them to their own standards.

IDENTIFYING AN APPROPRIATE AUDIT

In the modern doctor's portfolio career, there is often no standard template for identifying an audit that will be beneficial and fulfil the goals outlined by The GMC and NHS England (see above). So, with this in mind, it really is common sense for practicing doctors to identify their own areas to review, but WJ Healthcare will help advise and support when possible and have provided some simple pointers below.

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WJ Healthcare encourages its member doctors to:

Think about important areas of your practice that require validation

Example: Knowledge of procedural surgical outcomes or complication rates. These should then be compared against specialty or national standards.
Practical Tip: Look at a consent form for any procedure you carry out and this will have recognised complications. Identify either retro or prospectively a cohort of patients and record how frequently these have occurred.

Write up your Findings

Practical Tip: You need to evidence what you have done and what you have found. This also serves as supporting evidence should your practice ever be challenges. It does not need to be published, but please write it up as an audit. Guidance on this can be found in Useful Links below.

Don't do an audit, for audit sake!

Example: WJ Healthcare has reviewed numerous hand washing audits. We are all aware of the importance of hand hygiene, but I would only target this area if you or your team have concerns.

It i s the responsibility of all licensed doctors to engage in audit, but if you are struggling to identify an appropriate area for review then please contact our expert advisers:

https://www.gmc-uk.org/registration-and-licensing/managing-your-registration/revalidation/guidance-on-supporting-information-for-revalidation

https://www.england.nhs.uk/clinaudit/#:~:text=Clinical%20audit%20is%20a%20way,where%20there%20could%20be%20improvements

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