

National Advisory Group for Clinical Audit & Enquiries

Consultation on Future of Audit staff in Trusts

Responses to the overall document and to the specific questions should be sent to clinicalaudit@dh.gsi.gov.uk by Monday 17 September 2012.

The full document can be downloaded from www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/07/audit-staff/

Q1	Do you agree with this assessment of the current concerns of audit staff in Trust?]	I do agree
Q2	Do you agree that the current situation is not sustainable?	I agree with that also
Q3	Do you agree with this analysis of the underlying reasons for the current situation?]	Not completely
Q4	Do you agree this would be helpful?	
Q5	Do you agree this would be helpful?	No
Q6	Do you agree this would be helpful?	No
Q7	Do you agree this would be helpful?	
Q8	Do you agree this would be helpful?	
Q9	What is your view of each component in the proposal?	
Q10	Do you have suggestions for other components?	<p>I suggest that Junior Doctors are given a list of the audits in the Trust that NEED to be done (based on a priority audit list) and have to choose their audit from that list on a first come first serve basis. That is what we are trying to implement here.</p> <p>I would also suggest that investment is needed in updating the archaic software the NHS</p>

		<p>currently uses, primarily when it comes to transferring to electronic patient notes.</p> <p>If the process of audit could be simplified, then a lot more people would take part. Time is the main issue. Clinicians are being asked to do a lot more with a lot less, so of course they sideline audits to give more time to patient care. It's counterintuitive given that audit can help drive improvement, but that's what they are forced to do. Making the process as slick as possible will lead to greater improvements. Currently in our Trust we are still reliant on huge paper-based sets of notes. To be relying on a paper set of records with virtually no electronic back up in this day and age, with the technology available, is insane. I can't imagine how much it must be costing the NHS to administrate these notes. I'm sure one years worth of that cost could go a long way towards paying for the electronic upgrade needed. It's a mammoth task but it has to be done country wide and it will improve the audit process immensely. Paper needs to be phased out as much as possible, because data collection can be instant. If we acquired the correct software and equipment then data collection could be carried out online then transferred to a database and the analysis done in an instant. The time it would save in working hours would be astronomical in financial terms, but the NHS will not face up to the fact that it needs a major upgrade on the technological front. I feel there is a lack of youth in the NHS as well, and this is because it feels like we still operate in the dark ages. It's frustrating for anyone with the drive to want to change things because you hit too many brick walls.</p> <p>Reducing the time it takes and making data collection tools as simple and effective as possible will give clinical audit staff a much stronger foundation with which to encourage the practice of audit in the NHS</p>
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