Clinical Audit Survey 2016

Background to the survey:

The online survey was devised by CASC and carried out via Survey Monkey. The seventh annual survey ran from the start of December to Christmas Eve 2016 and there were a total of 218 responses. This represents the most responses ever in the history of the survey and a 20% increase on the 182 returns in 2015). 57% of respondents classified themselves as a 'clinical audit professional', two-thirds had worked in clinical audit for 6 years or more and 56% worked in 'acute care'.

Initial draft findings:

- Of 218 respondents, 29% stated that they felt 'more positive' about clinical audit than a year ago (36% in 2015 and 46% in 2014), 34% stated they felt 'more negative' (26% in 2015 and 17% in 2014). 37% stated they felt 'neither more or less positive' comparable to the 38% recorded in 2014 and 2015.

- Ratings for national clinical audits once again resulted in 'moderate' attaining the top rating at 55.6%. 'Moderate' has been the top answer to this question since the survey started in 2010. 32.4% of respondents rated NCA's as 'excellent' or 'good', down from 38.2% in 2015.

- For the seventh consecutive year, the Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP) was voted the 'most effective national audit' by another landslide margin. The NCA of Intermediate Care was narrowly voted 'least effective national audit' in 2016.

- We included a new question for 2016: 'would you like more or less national audits to be made available'? Acute respondents answered 77% less verses 23% more. Respondents from community and/or mental health sectors answered 63% more and 37% less.

- 83% of respondents felt that local audits are more effective than national audits (17%) at improving patient care. Results showed a slight shift compared to 2015, where 84% voted for local audits and 16% for national.

- 45% of respondents stated that they did not 'intend to work in clinical audit or have responsibilities for audit in 5 years time'. The same result as 2015.

- Most used software packages for managing audit data were reported as: Excel (85%), followed by SurveyMonkey (29%) and Access (25%) and

- Most used clinical audit resources were: HQIP website and NICE websites (both with 85.3%) and HQIP eBulletin (84.8%)

- 71% rated patient involvement in clinical audit as 'poor' (71% in 2015), 27% 'average' (26% in 2015) and 2% as 'good' (down from 4% in 2015)

- 11% of respondents stated they had 'more resources' to support clinical audit in their organisations now compared to 12 months previously (12% in 2015).

- New for 2016: we included a number of questions asking for ideas on how the national clinical audit programme could be improved and we will share feedback in the full report. We envisage that this will be available no later than the end of March 2017. We will publish via www.clinicalauditsupport.com