Background to the survey

The online survey was devised by CASC and carried out via Survey Monkey. The sixth annual survey ran from 1st December to 24th December 2015 and there were a total of 182 responses (101 in 2014). 66% of respondents classified themselves as a 'clinical audit professional', 76% had worked in clinical audit for 6 years or more and 57% stated they worked in an 'acute care' setting.

Initial draft findings

- Of 182 respondents, 36% stated that they felt 'more positive' about clinical audit than a year ago (46% in 2014), 26% stated they felt 'more negative' (17% in 2014) and 38% reported they were 'neither more or less positive' (same result as 2013 and 2014)

- Ratings for national clinical audits once again resulted in 'moderate' attaining the top rating at 48.6%. 'Moderate' has been the top answer to this question since the survey started in 2010. 38.2% of respondents rated NCA's as 'excellent' or 'good', up from 27.9% in 2014 and back to 38.1% recorded in 2013. 13.2% rated NCA's as 'poor' or 'very poor', down from 21.5% in 2014

- For the sixth consecutive year, the Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP) was voted the 'most effective national audit' with 26 votes (more than the combined share of votes for NCAs placed 2nd, 3rd and 4th in response to this question). The NCA for Rheumatoid and Early Inflammatory Arthritis was voted 'least effective national audit' (10 votes)

- 84% of respondents felt that local audits are more effective than national audits (16%) at improving patient care. Results showed a slight shift compared to 2014, where 80% voted for local audits and 20% 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 highest response ever received in this category (compared to 41% in 2013 and 38% in 2014)

- Most used software packages for managing audit data were reported as: Excel (91%), followed by Access (23%) and SurveyMonkey (22%)

- Most used clinical audit resources were: NICE website (82.9%), HQIP website (82.4%) and HQIP eBulletin (79.7%)

- The CASC website was voted the most useful clinical audit resource (4.039), followed by the Clinical Audit Tools website (4.038). Of all resources listed the NAGCAE webpages on NHS England website ranked lowest (2.97)

- 71% rated patient involvement in clinical audit as 'poor' (67% in 2014), 26% 'average' (27% in 2013) and 4% as 'good' (down from 6% in 2014)

- 12% of respondents stated they had 'more resources' to support clinical audit in their organisations now compared to 12 months previously (down from 15% in 2014). Those reporting 'fewer resources' increased from 47% to 50%

- This year's survey includes questions focusing on whether clinical audit has been re-invigorated. CASC will reveal these results as part of a presentation we will be giving in London on 8th March as part of the National Clinical Audit for Improvement Conference. Full results will be published by April 2016.