

Clinical Audit Survey 2021

Interim results (05.01.22)

Background to the survey:

The online survey was devised by CASC and carried out via Survey Monkey. The twelfth annual survey ran from 26 November to 24 December 2021 and there were a total of 146 responses (a fall from the 187 returns in 2020). 62% of respondents classified themselves as a 'clinical audit professional', 62% had worked in clinical audit for 6 years or more and 59% stated they worked in 'acute care'.

Initial draft findings:

Of 146 respondents, 51.7% stated that they felt 'more positive' about clinical audit than a year ago (38.3% in 2020), 10.3% stated they felt 'more negative' (18.0% in 2020) and 37.9% reported they were 'neither more or less positive' (43.7% in 2020).

Ratings for national clinical audits once again resulted in 'moderate' attaining the top rating at 51.6% (46.7% in 2020). 'Moderate' has been the top answer to this question ever since the survey started in 2010. 5.7% rated NCAs as 'excellent' compared with 7.7% in the previous year.

The National Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP) was voted the 'most effective' national clinical audit for an astonishing 12th consecutive year! SSNAP edged the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA) by just 1 vote! SSNAP and NELA have ranked first and second respectively for the last 4 surveys (2018 to 2021).

82.1% of respondents felt that local audits are more effective than national audits (17.9%) at improving patient care. Results showed a slight shift compared to 2020, where 77.8% voted for local audits and 22.2% for national.

23.6% of respondents stated that they did not 'intend to work in clinical audit or have responsibilities for audit in 5 years time'. In 2020 the corresponding figure was 35.5%.

78.7% rated patient involvement in clinical audit as 'poor' (77.3% in 2020). 2.5% rated patient involvement in clinical audit as good. For the last 7 surveys, the proportion answering 'good' to this question has been less than 5%.

12.6% of respondents stated they had 'more resources' to support clinical audit in their organisations now compared to 12 months previously (11.7% in 2020).

Respondents were asked if **national** clinical audit had been reinvigorated. 17% answered 'yes' (21.2% in 2020), 46.6% answered 'not sure' (43.7% in 2020) and 36.4% answered 'no' (35.1% in 2020).

Respondents were asked if **local** clinical audit had been reinvigorated. 23.3% answered 'yes' (19.1% in 2020), 38.3% answered 'not sure' (37.5% in 2020) and 38.3% answered 'no' (43.4% in 2020).

Many thanks to all who took the time to give feedback. We will spend the next few months examining the data in more detail and will periodically provide further updates and a full report later in 2022. Note: our survey is taking a break in 2022, but will return in 2023.