Research, Clinical Audit and Service Evaluation

**RESEARCH**

- Designed to derive generalisable new knowledge
- Designed to test a hypothesis
- Addresses clearly defined questions, aims and objectives
- Study design may involve allocating patients to intervention groups
- Normally required Research Ethics Committee Review

**AUDIT**

- Designed and conducted to produce information to inform delivery of best care
- Designed to answer 'does this service reach a pre-determined standard'?
- Measures against a standard
- No allocation to intervention
- Does not typically require Research Ethics Committee Review

**EVALUATION**

- Designed and conducted solely to define or judge current care
- Designed to answer the question 'what standard does this service achieve'?
- Measures without reference to a standard
- No allocation to intervention
- Does not require Research Ethics Committee Review