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TEN TOP TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CLINICAL AUDIT

1.



Start Small

Clinical audit projects often fail because they try to collect too much data. Remember an audit is a snapshot of care.

2.



Involve team members

Audit in isolation is rarely successful. Get team members together from the start to agree topics and plan the best approach.

3.



Make sure it is a clinical audit!

Many staff confuse audit with research, service evaluation, etc. Remember, audit measure care against a standard.

4.



Learn from others

Audit is not new! Search the internet, review local projects and search established audit forums to see if others have conducted the audit you are planning.

5.



Gather support

Local support for clinical audit can be variable but most clinicians have access to a dedicated team to assist and advise them.

6.



Plan your audits properly

Don't rush the planning stage of your project as this is where you lay the foundations for success. Rushed audits rarely work.

7.



Pilot your audit

It is always a good idea to test your audit before you collect all the data required. Piloting often identifies small problems that are easy to resolve.

8.



Keep analysis simple

The purpose of data analysis is to tell us if the standard is being met and if not why. Don't over-stat your audit analysis.

9.



Re-audit is vital

Unless your audit shows exemplar care you need to implement changes and re-audit. Re-measurement is a key element of clinical audit.

10.



Make the most of your clinical audit

Don't tuck your audit in a drawer. Write a short report and share it, present the key findings, submit for publication or a local or national award.

