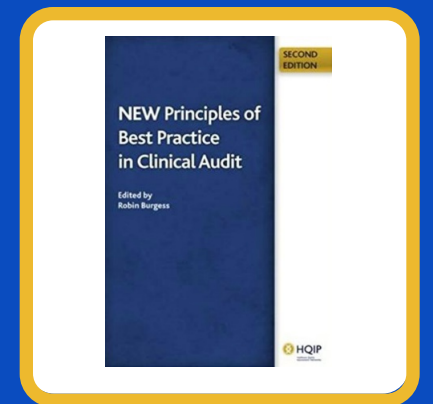


4

definitions for clinical audit

Principles of Best Practice

A quality improvement process that seeks to improve patient care and outcomes through systematic review of care against explicit criteria and standards and the implementation of change. Aspects of the structure, process and outcome of care are selected and systematically evaluated against explicit criteria. Where indicated, changes are implemented and further monitoring is used to confirm improvement in healthcare delivery.



NHS ENGLAND

A way to find out if healthcare is being provided in line with standards and lets care providers and patients know where their service is doing well and where there could be improvements. The aim is to allow quality improvement to take place where it is most helpful and will improve outcomes for patients. Clinical audits can look at care nationwide (national audits) and local audits can also be performed locally.

Working for Patients

The original definition for what was then known as medical audit and published in the 1989 Working for Patients White Paper was 'a process for improving the quality of care by looking at current practice and modifying it where necessary'.



CASC

We created a simple one-line statement that encapsulates the main aim of clinical audit. For us 'clinical audit is a systematic process that allows us to assess if we are doing what we should be doing in terms of the care we deliver to our patients'.

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