

Sources of evidence for clinical audit

Clinical audit is a discipline whereby healthcare professionals review the care they deliver to patients and the services they provide against agreed best practice. We have listed below the common sources for deriving clinical audit standards.

1



International

For example: The World Health Organisation (WHO)

Create world-wide best practice

Well known for safe surgery checklist

2



National

For example: NICE (England) or SIGN (Scotland)

Distil evidence into national standards

NICE have produced over 1,000 guidelines since 2000

3



Local

Best practice is often agreed locally

These may be regional or local guidelines

Documents could be protocols, operating procedures, etc.

4



Literature

Often best practice has not been formally agreed

Literature searches can tell us current thinking

NHS Evidence is a great help here

5



Consensus

Occasionally we have no agreement on best practice

Experts can get together and agree best practice

Arguably creating local guidance