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eNewsletter - Issue 119 - April 2019

Feedback from National Clinical Audit Summit



The CASC team attended the annual National Clinical Audit Summit on 29 March in London. Once again, the event was supported by Healthcare Conferences UK, who helped increase numbers significantly compared with previous years by offering some free and discounted places to NQICAN members. The day consisted of keynote speakers (HQIP and NHS

England), local presentations, workshops and was ably chaired by Carl Walker (NQICAN chair). For us, the two key highlights were: 1) NQICAN unveiling the initial data captured by their recent online survey and 2) Celia Ingham Clark (NHS England) stating that the national audit programme is under scrutiny and there is an expectation that some national audits will be down-sized and/or decommissioned to make way for new audits in coming years. In order to provide more feedback and useful signposting, we have created a one-page infographic that provides our 'take-home' messages from the event. To access this, click [here](#).

New materials from CASC

Many of you will have noticed that during the second-half of 2018 we refreshed our website and added considerable amounts of new content. This is an on-going undertaking and we are delighted to be able to announce that we are now making four new Excel spreadsheets to assist local clinical audit and QI professionals available. All of the new tools are intuitive and help users to 1) understand if their proposed audit is indeed a clinical audit, 2) determine if ideas for commencing an audit are sound and 3) critiquing projects that have been undertaken. We

Training Courses:

- [Advanced Clinical Audit](#)
- [Train the Trainer in Clinical Audit](#)
- [Audit Distance Learning Course](#)
- [Root Cause Analysis](#)
- [Significant Event Audit](#)
- [Getting started with QI](#)

See Also:

- [About us](#)
- [Training courses](#)
- [Clinical Audit resources](#)
- [CASC reports](#)
- [Quality improvement](#)
- [Patient safety](#)

Announcements:

The May eNewsletter will be published on 2 May 2019.

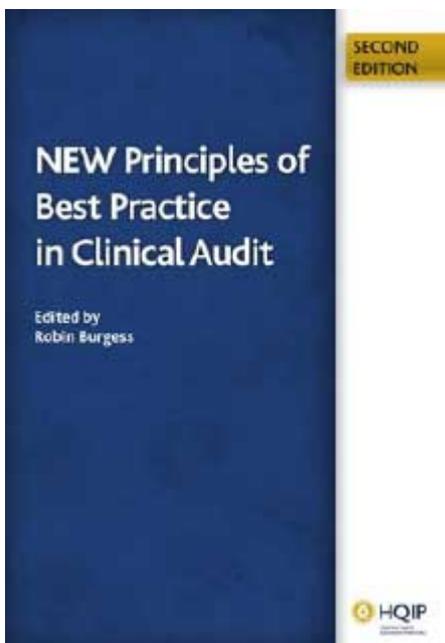
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would like to thank the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) for allowing us to base one of the Excel tools on the Quality Impact Analysis tool that features in their Developing a Clinical Audit Programme guide. To access the new resources, click [here](#). We plan to develop more inter-

active tools and materials for audit, patient safety and QI and will release these later in 2019.

Defining Clinical Audit



During March we conducted a quick survey to look at the current definition of clinical audit. We undertook this piece of work because: 1) the definition for audit is often discussed during the training sessions that we deliver and 2) we note that many teams (for example Sherwood Forest) are gaining considerable momentum by running quick snap polls via social media and other platforms. 50 respondents kindly took

the time to complete our 3-question survey and the results indicate that there remains considerable support for the audit definition that appears in New Principles of Best Practice in Clinical Audit (2011). In total, 40 respondents (80%) state that they use this definition, with just 6 (12%) adopting the NHS England definition and 4 (8%) using another definition. When we looked more closely at the 40 respondents that currently use the 'New Principles' definition, 76% stated that this is 'fit-for-purpose'. We can therefore conclude that there remains broad support for the definition from 2011. Indeed, from 50 respondents, only 4 definitions of audit were identified: 2 that we supplied (New Principles and NHS England) and 2 'own' personal definitions.

New competition launching in May 2019

We are delighted to announce that next month we will be launching a new competition aimed at Nursing and Midwifery Council members. Having set up our junior doctor audit competition in 2010 and to mark its tenth anniversary, we have decided to establish a competition that focuses on nursing staff. Over the years we have been asked why we only run our competition for juniors? This has simply been due to time,



Important announcement for nurses

Since entering our junior doctor clinical audit and QI competitions in 2016 we have been pleased to see many nurses enter and offer a genuine opportunity for nurses to be better supported. However, we have recently agreed that the clinical audit and QI competitions will be open to all healthcare professionals. We are delighted to announce that in 2019, to coincide with our 10th junior doctor competition, we are stepping up to the plate.



work pressures and the fact that we receive no external funding for this work. However, in May 2019 we will be launching our competition for nursing staff and this will run alongside the junior doctor competition. The key entry criterion is that all audit projects must be led by an NMC registered member.

Of course, we appreciate that this is a narrow banding, but we invite other national bodies to set up competitions for other healthcare professionals that our competitions do not cover. More details will be released in our May e-Newsletter. We are very excited to be supporting nursing and midwifery staff and providing them with an opportunity to showcase their audit work.

Quick CASC update



March proved to be a busy month for CASC and we were delighted to visit the East of England Clinical Audit Network meeting on 6 March to share feedback on our annual survey. Incidentally, we continue to work on the final report. This should be available by the end of April/early May. If you are part of a regional

network and would like us to present our annual survey data, please get in touch. We are also continuing to pursue setting up audits for care homes. If you are interested in this work, please get in touch. Meanwhile, we continue to offer accredited training in clinical audit, QI and patient safety. Once we know more, we will be aligning our training to the feedback from the NQICAN Training Needs Analysis. If you would like more details on our training courses, click [here](#). If you are interested in us delivering bespoke accredited training for you, then please get in touch.

Tell your friends about our eNews



We first launched the CASC e-Newsletter in February 2007 with the aim of providing those with an interest in clinical audit and QI with a free regular monthly update. Since that time hundreds of subscribers across the world have joined our circulation list. The newsletter provides subscribers with a mixture of CASC-related and other clinical audit, quality improvement and patient safety news to help you keep up-to-date with current events. Don't forget that if you have missed a previous issue of the newsletter then

you can visit the [eNews](#) section of our website where all previous issues are archived. If you wish to sign up for your own copy or know others who may be interested then please email:

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