



eNewsletter - Issue 116 - December 2018

#CAAW blimey: what a week!



It was truly inspiring to see so many local audit teams and wider groups of staff celebrating the merits of clinical audit from 19-23 November during Clinical Audit Awareness Week. We were delighted to see so many teams using our materials especially via Twitter. Once again, our pledge cards proved a great

success and we also had fantastic feedback on our concise Clinical Audit Guide for Dummies. Our two fun audit strapline and acronym competitions also generated a lot of interest and it was great to see people using these to help promote audit and raise its profile. During #CAAW18 we tried to showcase the full gambit of clinical audit work going on (not just hospitals) and we would particularly like to thank all the teams that worked with us to create case studies. We have taken the decision to retain the Clinical Audit Awareness Week section on our website as a permanent feature and you can access that [here](#). Well done to the many heroes out there who helped make #CAAW18 a great success.

Competition winners announced as part of #CAAW18

As in 2017, we took the logical decision to use Clinical Audit Awareness Week as the perfect moment to announce the winners of our competitions. Our junior doctor clinical audit competition was established in 2010 and the ninth overall winners of this were Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHSFT for their 'Audit of NICE Guidelines on IV fluid prescribing'. Martin Ferris awarded his clinical audit prize to the 'Operation Notes Audit' carried out by Hywel Dda, University Health Board (NHS Wales). The prize for the best Quality Improvement Project was hotly contested with the judging panel awarding this to South London and Maudsley NHSFT for their innovative project

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:

Next eNews will be published on 3 January 2018.

[Follow on Twitter](#)



'Developing information leaflets for children admitted to mental health wards'. In addition to the junior doctor awards, this year we also introduced the Clinical Audit Prize that was open to all. This award proved too hard to pick one winner, so joint first was awarded to London Ambulance Trust and Medway Maritime Trust. Well done to all finalists and winners. You can view

all posters [here](#).

Have your say via CASC annual survey LITE!



Many of you will know that since 2010 we have tried to 'take the temperature' of the clinical audit and QI community via our annual survey. Indeed, many of you may have kindly taken time to submit data to us. The survey is unique and has previously been used by the likes of Sir Nick Black

during his time as chairman of the National Advisory Group for Clinical Audit and Enquiries to assess the planned reinvigoration of clinical audit. This year we have followed our own expectations of national audits, i.e. that they should be concise and report results rapidly. With this in mind we have significantly reduced the length of the survey and as a result it will be quicker for participants to complete. We are also aiming to share a full report by the end of January 2019 that will compare data over nine years. We are rightly proud of this piece of work given no other bodies conduct wide scale surveys of the clinical audit community. You can take part [here](#) and we thank you in advance for your support of this work. The survey closes on 24 December 2018.

CASC defending the integrity of clinical audit

Many of you will have doubtless seen the article published in the September issue of the British Journal of Hospital Medicine by Drs Boyle and Keep entitled 'Clinical audit does not work, is quality improvement any better?'. The original article highlighted apparent current weaknesses in clinical audit, notably the burden and workload associated with many projects.

While we agreed much of the content of the article, we felt some of it was unfair and cast audit in a poor light, not least via a cursory look at



the title. In response to the article, our Co-Director had a letter published in the November issue of the journal, click [here](#). This challenged a number of the assertions made by the authors in their original article. The letter noted that the authors had referenced publications from almost 20 years ago, ignored the fact that some national audits have a strong international reputation and pointed out that the plans by the Royal

College of Emergency Medicine to bring in QI methods to improve care, are entirely dependent on accessing high quality NCA data in the first place! We trust that audit staff feel that this letter does them justice and helps defend their reputation.

NCA: time for a change in direction



As a team we passionately support clinical audit and QI, but we have taken the decision to be more vocal in challenging the current arrangements for national clinical audit. Our reasoning for this is simple and three-fold: 1) ten years ago we were promised a re-balancing of the NCA programme as part of the reinvigoration agenda, but acute care continues to monopolise national audit

funding, 2) the burden of data collection for national audits is too much and we would like to see more smaller projects that report results more rapidly (these are themes we constantly pick up via our annual survey and when meeting audit staff and clinicians), 3) many NCAs do not follow basic clinical audit methodology and are in effect large research projects. Our first initial aim is to scope a possible national audit for care homes as this sector has been entirely overlooked. This is despite the fact that more patients sleep in a care home bed every night than in hospitals and given that many care home residents are frail and vulnerable. If you are interested in working with us on this initiative, then please get in touch via info@clinicalauditsupport.com.

CASC courses and our new website

We are delighted to announce that in the run-up to Christmas we will be offering our accredited Distance Learning course at a discounted



rate of £500 (inclusive of VAT) per learner. This course is usually offered at £660 (inclusive of VAT). This course, click [here](#) for more details, is ideal for those wanting to carry out a local audit project, especially clinicians who want to undertake an audit to meet their revalidation and appraisal requirements. We are also running our Advanced Clinical Audit course in Leicester on 28

February. Meanwhile, do please take at our updated website. We have added lots of new sections, including patient safety and quality improvement. Thus far, feedback on the new look website has been very positive but please do let us know your thoughts and ideas for improvement. We are also planning on adding new materials and resource early next year so watch this space.

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:

info@clinicalauditsupport.com

[Copyright © 2018](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [unsubscribe from this list](#)
[update subscription preferences](#)

[Clinical Audit Support Centre Limited](#), Blaby Business Centre, 33 Leicester Road, Blaby, Leicester, LE8 4GR.

Email: info@clinicalauditsupport.com | Phone: +44 0116 264 3411.