

Martin Ferris

Retired

Clinical Audit Experience:

After a 20 year career working in IT in industry I became Audit Co-ordinator at Hull Hospitals in 1991, partly because I knew what an audit actually was.

After creating and heading the department in Hull for nine years I left to become Clinical Audit and Effectiveness Manager at South Yorkshire Health Authority based in Sheffield. In this role I managed the audit budget and developed processes with Trusts to ensure that the funding provided to them for audit was being effectively/properly used. My role also included audit within Public Health where Sheffield became the lead for the country.

My role developed over the years as commissioning was taken over by PCTs and SHA became part of Yorkshire and Humber SHA (to which I was seconded for a day a week). A significant part of the PCT role was to promote and assist audit within all the community specialties and with GPs. During my time in Sheffield I was fortunate to work with a number of excellent audit specialists across the city who assisted me to create a number of methods and processes which led to the Sheffield health community being recognised as a centre of excellence nationally.

I was a member of the Clinical Audit Association from 1991-2003, becoming its treasurer, and a founder member of NAGG (now NQICAN), chairing it in 2006-2008.

Major successes and innovations included:

- 1) Creating criteria for the successful conduct of audit in Trusts. The idea was taken up by HQIP who subsequently produced their own watered-down version
- 2) Creating the first Clinical Audit Patient Panel in the country for Primary Care
- 3) Creating the first systematic process for commissioning audit in Trusts, Public Health Community Services GPs. We actually did an audit with dentists!
- 4) Co-author of "A Clinical Audit Handbook for Junior Doctors" with RCP
- 5) Speaking at innumerable conferences and events across the country.

In addition to my role in Sheffield and secondment to the Strategic Health Authority I was also seconded 15 days a year to Department of Health as a member of the National Advisory Group for Clinical Audit and Enquiries. As a disinterested expert I was one of three people who short-listed and then chose HQIP to be the chosen organisation to manage NCAs and to develop local audit (whatever became of local audit support?). So you can blame or praise me as you see fit.

Where are they now?:

I retired from NHS Sheffield in 2011 after almost exactly 20 years working in audit. Since then I received an MBE for services to the NHS from The Queen in 2011 and then embarked on a life of ease. For those that knew me I still read a lot, tend the garden and bake bread! I'm also playing Bridge after 30 years away from the game and I'm taking much more of an interest in Local History.

I still maintain an interest in clinical audit, particularly via the NQICAN forum (thanks to Carl Walker) and contribute to topics when I can provide some help. I also keep in touch with Stephen and Tracy at CASC. Life is much better when the alarm clock only goes off when you want it to!

Words of wisdom:

I always say that people know more than they think they do and this applies to audit staff as much as anybody. So with this in mind here are my words of wisdom:

- 1) Network, network and network again. Looking at the number of NQICAN members I'm sure that there are many missing out on this valuable resource and opportunity to help others.
- 2) Never be satisfied with your work. It can always be improved
- 3) Work smarter not harder. Find ways to make your job more enjoyable and productive.
- 4) Try to think 'outside the box' at all times.
- 5) Deliver outputs on time.

Good luck! We all need it.



Meet Martin...

We have known Martin for over 20 years and worked with him on numerous projects over the years. For example, we were part of a team lead by Graham Copeland (then National Clinical Audit Development Director) to compile 'A Practical Handbook for Clinical Audit' in 2005.

Since his retirement, we've kept in touch with Martin and every year he visits Leicester to help select the winners of our annual junior doctor clinical audit and QI competitions. We are astonished that since how retirement, he remains as interested now in audit as he has ever been!

#CAAW18.



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