



Ionad Náisiúnta
d'Iniúchadh Cliniciúil

An Stiúrtóireacht um Ardchaighdeán
agus Sábháilteacht Othar

National Centre
for Clinical Audit

National Quality and Patient
Safety Directorate

HSE National Centre for Clinical Audit Training and Education Prospectus 2025



Reader Information

Title:	HSE National Centre for Clinical Audit Training and Education Prospectus 2025
Purpose:	The purpose of this Clinical Audit Training and Education Prospectus is to provide information and learning outcomes on the range of clinical audit training courses available via the HSE National Centre for Clinical Audit in partnership with the Clinical Audit Support Centre, UK
Developed by:	HSE National Centre for Clinical Audit (NCCA) and Clinical Audit Support Centre (CASC), UK
Approved January 2025	Majella Daly, Assistant National Director, National Centre for Clinical Audit.
Acknowledgements	We wish to acknowledge the work of the NCCA team and CASC involved in producing this document, including: Majella Daly, Selene Daly, Karen Reynolds, Annette Cotter, Tracy Ruthven and Stephen Ashmore.
Publication Date:	8 th January 2025
Version Number:	1
Target Audience:	All HSE staff, clinical audit service providers and all agencies involved and interested in Clinical Audit.
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Related/Associated documents	<p>Health Service Executive (HSE) National Centre for Clinical Audit – A Practical Guide https://assets.hse.ie/media/documents/HSE_National_Centre_for_Clinical_Audit_-_A_Practical_Guide.pdf</p> <p>HSE National Centre for Clinical Audit Nomenclature https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/nqpsd/ncca/nomenclature-a-glossary-of-terms-for-clinical-clinical_audit.pdf</p>

Contents

Page No.

1. Introduction	5
2. Clinical Audit Training and Education 2025	6
2.1 Fundamentals in Clinical Audit	6
2.2 Advanced Clinical Audit.....	8
2.3 Clinical Audit Action Hours/Webinars	10
3. Clinical Audit Training Booking Details.....	13

References

1. Introduction

“Clinical audit is a clinically-led quality improvement process that seeks to improve patient care and outcomes through systematic review of care against explicit specific clinical standards or clinical guidelines and acting to improve care when clinical standards or clinical guidelines are not met.

The process involves the selection of aspects of the structure, processes and outcomes of care which are then systematically evaluated against explicit specific clinical standards or clinical guidelines.”

(Patient Safety (Notifiable Incidents and Open Disclosure) Act 2023)

Following clinical audit, improvements, if required should be implemented at an individual, team or organisation level and then the care re-evaluated to confirm improvements. *(DOHC 2008, p. 152) (HSE NCCA Nomenclature, Glossary of Terms for Clinical Audit, 2022).*

It is noted that clinically-led includes the breadth of clinical professionals working in health and social care services

The National Centre for Clinical Audit have taken into account the feedback from trainees in 2024 and made changes to our education and delivery methods for 2025. As a result, we now offer a blended approach to clinical audit training, with shorter sessions, which is delivered by the Clinical Audit Support Centre (CASC) in partnership with the National Centre for Clinical Audit.

This blended approach provides a range of options for staff to meet their clinical audit training needs at the most convenient time.

2. Clinical Audit Training and Education 2025

2.1 Fundamentals in Clinical Audit (E Learning and Virtual Classroom)

To provide accessibility for staff, this course is provided in two formats:

- (1). e-Learning (which is available 24/7 at learners own pace) or
- (2). Virtual classroom delivered over Zoom.

Therefore, it is only necessary to complete one of them.

Aim

The aim of training is to assist staff in gaining a basic understanding of the clinical audit process and how to conduct a clinical audit and/or effectively support others conducting clinical audits

Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this programme learners will be able to:

1. Understand the clinical audit process and why it's important
2. Develop and undertake a clinical audit
3. Select a methodology for the clinical audit process
4. Conduct clinical audit data collection and analysis
5. Report clinical audit findings

Core Content

The e-Learning course is designed to assist all staff to gain a good understanding of the fundamentals in clinical audit with the aim of enabling them to undertake their own successful clinical audit project.

This course is highly interactive. All learners work through four modules:

- A brief history of clinical audit and why you should get involved
- Defining clinical audit and the clinical audit process
- In-depth review of the stages of the clinical audit process
- Assessment and signposting

In the virtual training sessions, learners will attend a full day virtually.

Virtual Session (AM)

- Clinical audit context
- Clinical audit definitions (nomenclature)
- The clinical audit process: seven steps to success
- Selecting clinical audit topics and identifying best practice

Virtual Session (PM)

- Analysing clinical audit data
- Implementing changes successfully, re-audit and closing the loop
- Clinical audit report writing
- A review of clinical audit case studies

Duration

The HSeLanD e-learning programme is assessed as 10 hours of learning.

The virtual session will be delivered over 1 day from 10am-4pm.

Who should apply?

This programme is designed for anyone who wants to gain a better understanding of clinical audit and will suit those with no, minimal or some experience/familiarity of the subject matter.

All those working in health and social care services including service users and patient representatives who are involved in developing and delivering clinical audit projects are welcome to attend.

Note: It is advised that learners complete the **Introduction to Quality Improvement e-learning module** (duration 20 minutes) which is hosted on HSeLanD prior to enrolling

CPD/CEU Eligibility

Fundamentals in Clinical Audit e-Learning Programme is awarded

10 CPD points – RCPI

10 CEUs- NMBI

Fundamentals in Clinical Audit Virtual Programme

6 CPD points – RCPI

6 CEU's - NMBI

How to Enrol

e-Learning: Login to HSeLanD at www.HSeLanD.ie and search the Course Catalogue for “Fundamentals of Clinical Audit” in the National Centre for Clinical Audit (NCCA section)

Virtual Session: Login to HSeLanD at www.HSeLanD.ie and search the Course Catalogue for “Fundamentals of Clinical Audit Virtual Course” in the National Centre for Clinical Audit (NCCA section)

Check the HSE all staff update broadcast email under training opportunities and follow NCCA on our social media platform LinkedIn: HSE NCCA

Please contact ncca@hse.ie for further information.

Dates for Virtual Clinical Audit Training Sessions

14th January 2025

11th June 2025

4th December 2025

2.2 Advanced Clinical Audit

Aim

The aim of this programme is to further develop learners clinical audit skills in healthcare. The course will build additional skills and knowledge that relate to delivering high quality and patient focused clinical audit. Learners should have previous experience of conducting at least one clinical audit.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this programme learners will be able to:

1. Understand best practice for the clinical audit process.
2. Understand how to include patients and service users in clinical audit.
3. Understand common barriers to participation in clinical audit.
4. Understand best practice in relation to action planning.
5. Know how to use QI techniques within the clinical audit process.
6. Understand key aspects of leading the clinical audit process.
7. Know how to present clinical audit findings

Core Content

Virtual Session (AM)

- Review clinical audit best practice
- Co-production, patient, service-user and carer involvement
- Common barriers to clinical audit and potential solutions
- Promoting the benefits of clinical audit
- How to sustain improvement in clinical audit using action plans

Virtual Session (PM)

- Using different quality improvement techniques to enable change
- Leadership skills for clinical audit facilitators
- Presentation skills for clinical audit facilitators
- Workshop and project development session

Duration

This virtual training session will be delivered over 1 day from 10am-4pm.

Delivery Method

This virtual session will be delivered online via Zoom.

CPD/CEU Eligibility

The Advanced Clinical Audit Programme is awarded:

6 CPD Points – RCPI

6 CEU points – NMBI

Who should apply?

Those staff who lead and facilitate clinical audit programmes will benefit from the additional skills that this course offers.

Note: It is essential that learners enrolling into the Advanced Course in Clinical Audit have already completed the Fundamentals in Clinical Audit Course (either e-learning or virtual) as there is an expectation that all earners have a clear knowledge of clinical audit methodology or have considerable previous experience of facilitating clinical audit.

How to Enrol

Login to HSeLanD at www.HSeLanD.ie and search the Course Catalogue for “Advanced Clinical Audit” in the National Centre for Clinical Audit (NCCA section)

Check the HSE all staff update broadcast email under training opportunities and follow NCCA on our social media platform LinkedIn: HSE NCCA

Date for Virtual Clinical Audit Training Session
25th September 2025

2.3 Clinical Audit Action Hour Webinars

Aim

The aim of '**Clinical Audit Action Hour**' webinars, is to provide attendees with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively conduct clinical audits. The goal is to enhance the participants' understanding of clinical audit methodology and equip them with the tools to improve the quality and safety of patient care in their respective healthcare settings.

Core content

The NCCA are delighted to present a range of webinars to include:

1). Clinical Audit Clinic; Your Questions answered

What You Will Learn?

In this informative webinar, "Clinical Audit Clinic: Your Questions Answered," participants will gain valuable insights into the seven stages of clinical audit. This is an engaging question-and-answer format facilitated by CASC and NCCA personnel to answer all your Clinical Audit queries and challenges.

Who Should Attend?

This webinar is ideal for healthcare professionals, clinical auditors and anyone participating in or supporting clinical audit.

Whether you are a beginner seeking foundational knowledge or an experienced practitioner looking to refine your skills, this webinar promises to provide valuable insights and practical guidance to enhance your understanding of clinical audits. Join us for an interactive session that encourages collaboration and knowledge sharing.

2). From Clinical Audit to Article: Writing and Publishing your Clinical Audit Success

Are you ready to publish your clinical audit findings? Join us for an engaging hour-long webinar titled "From Clinical Audit to Article Writing: Publishing Your Clinical Audit Success," where we will guide you through the essential steps of transforming your audit results into a poster presentation or a compelling article suitable for publication.

What You Will Learn?

This informative session will cover a comprehensive range of topics delivered by our training partners CASC to help you effectively communicate your clinical audit outcomes.

Who Should Attend?

This webinar is perfect for healthcare professionals, clinical auditors and anyone interested in disseminating their clinical audit findings. Whether you are new to writing for publication or looking to refine your skills, this session will equip you with the tools you need to succeed.

3). Mastering Data Collection: Smart Sampling Strategies for Clinical Audits

In a data-driven healthcare environment, effective data collection is crucial for the success of clinical audits. Join us for an insightful hour-long webinar, "Mastering Data Collection: Smart Sampling Strategies for Clinical Audit," where we will explore innovative sampling techniques that enhance the quality and reliability of your audit data.

What will you learn?

This webinar will cover essential concepts and practical strategies for optimising your data collection process in clinical audits, delivered by our training partners CASC

Who Should Attend?

This webinar is ideal for healthcare professionals, clinical auditors and quality improvement professionals. Whether you are a novice or an experienced auditor, you will leave with valuable knowledge and practical tools to enhance your sampling strategies.

The NCCA welcome feedback on any other one hour 'Audit in Action' topics staff would like training and guidance on.

Further dates can be facilitated for groups in a particular local setting who request sessions bespoke to their clinical audit topic.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will have the opportunity to attend the one hour interactive training session of their choice focussing specifically on the topics listed above. Learning outcomes for the learning hours include:

1. Define clinical audits and their importance in healthcare.
2. Understand how to align clinical questions with audit objectives.
3. Explore smart sampling strategies to enhance the validity and reliability of audit findings.
4. Learn best practices for data collection and management in clinical audits.
5. Gain insights into interpreting clinical audit data effectively.
6. Identify common pitfalls in data analysis and how to avoid them.
7. Understand the structure and elements of a well-organised clinical audit report.
8. Gain knowledge on the publishing process and how to target appropriate journals for clinical audit findings.
9. Learn strategies for presenting and disseminating audit results to stakeholders.
10. Identify ways to leverage clinical audit findings to improve clinical practice and ultimately patient outcomes.
11. Foster networking opportunities with peers and experts in the field.
12. Encourage ongoing dialogue and collaboration around clinical audit best practices.
13. Provide participants with the opportunity to ask specific questions related to clinical audits.
14. Facilitate discussion on common challenges and solutions in conducting clinical audits.

Duration

1 hour. All sessions run from 12.30hrs to 13.30hrs

Delivery Method

These virtual sessions will be delivered via Zoom.

CPD/CEU

N.A.

Who should apply?

This training is open to any healthcare professional who wants to enhance their understanding of clinical audit and contribute to improving patient care and outcomes

How to Enrol?

Login to HSeLanD at www.HSeLanD.ie and search the Course Catalogue for “Clinical Audit Action Hour” in the National Centre for Clinical Audit (NCCA section)

Dates for Clinical Audit Action Hours/Webinars

From Clinical Audit to Article: Writing and Publishing your Clinical Audit Success:

8th April 2025

Mastering Data Collection: Smart Sampling Strategies for Clinical Audits:

9th October 2025

Clinical Audit Clinic: Your Questions Answered:

25th February 2025,

21st May 2025,

23rd September 2025

21st November 2025

3. Clinical Audit Training and Education Booking Details

Enrolment for all Clinical Audit Training and Education Sessions via HSeLanD

- Login to HSeLanD at www.HSeLanD.ie
- Search the Course Catalogue in the National Centre for Clinical Audit (NCCA section)
- Check the HSE all staff update broadcast email under training opportunities and follow NCCA on our social media platform LinkedIn: HSE NCCA

References

Health Service Executive (HSE) National Centre for Clinical Audit – A Practical Guide

https://assets.hse.ie/media/documents/HSE_National_Centre_for_Clinical_Audit_-_A_Practical_Guide.pdf

HSE National Centre for Clinical Audit Nomenclature

https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/ngpsd/ncca/nomenclature-a-glossary-of-terms-for-clinical-clinical_audit.pdf



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About the HSE National Centre for Clinical Audit National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate

The National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate (NQPSD) was established within the Office of the Chief Clinical Officer in Summer 2021, following the HSE Corporate Centre review. It merged a number of functions from the former national Quality Assurance and Verification Division (QAVD) and National Quality Improvement Team (NQIT). National QPSD is anchored in the HSE Patient Safety Strategy 2019-2024. It works to embed a culture of patient safety improvement at every level of the health and social care service. This is achieved through developing a collaborative culture aimed at repeating and improving on positive outcomes and minimizing adverse outcomes.

The HSE National Centre for Clinical Audit (NCCA) established within the QPSD, follows publication of the HSE National Review of Clinical Audit Report in 2019, and will be primarily responsible for implementing the report's recommendations. This step confirms the HSE's commitment to developing clinical audit as an essential quality and patient safety tool in Ireland, promoting improved patient outcomes. Clinical audit is an integral component of safety in all modern healthcare systems and the programme will ensure delivery of a standardised approach.

Establishing the HSE NCCA marks an important step in the HSE's continued efforts to improve the quality and safety of healthcare for patients. This will strengthen the development of an end-to-end process for clinical audit in accordance with the recommendations in the report and meet the needs of clinical audit service providers and multi-disciplinary stakeholders.

For further information, please contact:

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