



Ionad Náisiúnta d'Iniúchadh Cliniciúil

Cáilíocht Náisiúnta agus Sábháilteacht Othar

National Centre for Clinical Audit

National Quality and Patient Safety

## **HSE National Centre for Clinical Audit Training and Education Prospectus 2026**



## Reader Information

<b>Title:</b>	HSE National Centre for Clinical Audit Training and Education Prospectus 2026
<b>Purpose:</b>	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
<b>Developed by:</b>	HSE National Centre for Clinical Audit (NCCA) and Clinical Audit Support Centre (CASC), UK
<b>Approved: January 2026</b>	Majella Daly, Assistant National Director, National Centre for Clinical Audit.
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<b>Target Audience:</b>	All HSE staff, clinical audit service providers and all agencies involved and interested in Clinical Audit.
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<b>Related/Associated documents:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Health Service Executive (HSE) National Centre for Clinical Audit – A Practical Guide</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">HSE National Centre for Clinical Audit Nomenclature</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">HSE Quality Improvement Guide and Toolkit</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The QPS Competency Navigator 2025</a></li> </ul>



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## 1. Introduction

The HSE National Centre for Clinical Audit (NCCA) established within National Quality and Patient Safety (NQPS), follows publication of the HSE National Review of Clinical Audit Report in 2019, and is primarily responsible for implementing the report's recommendations as well as the National Clinical Audit Strategy. 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.

“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 2025 and made changes to our education and delivery methods for 2026. As a result, we now offer a blended approach to clinical audit training, with shorter sessions, which is delivered by the National Centre for Clinical Audit in partnership with the Clinical Audit Support Centre (CASC).

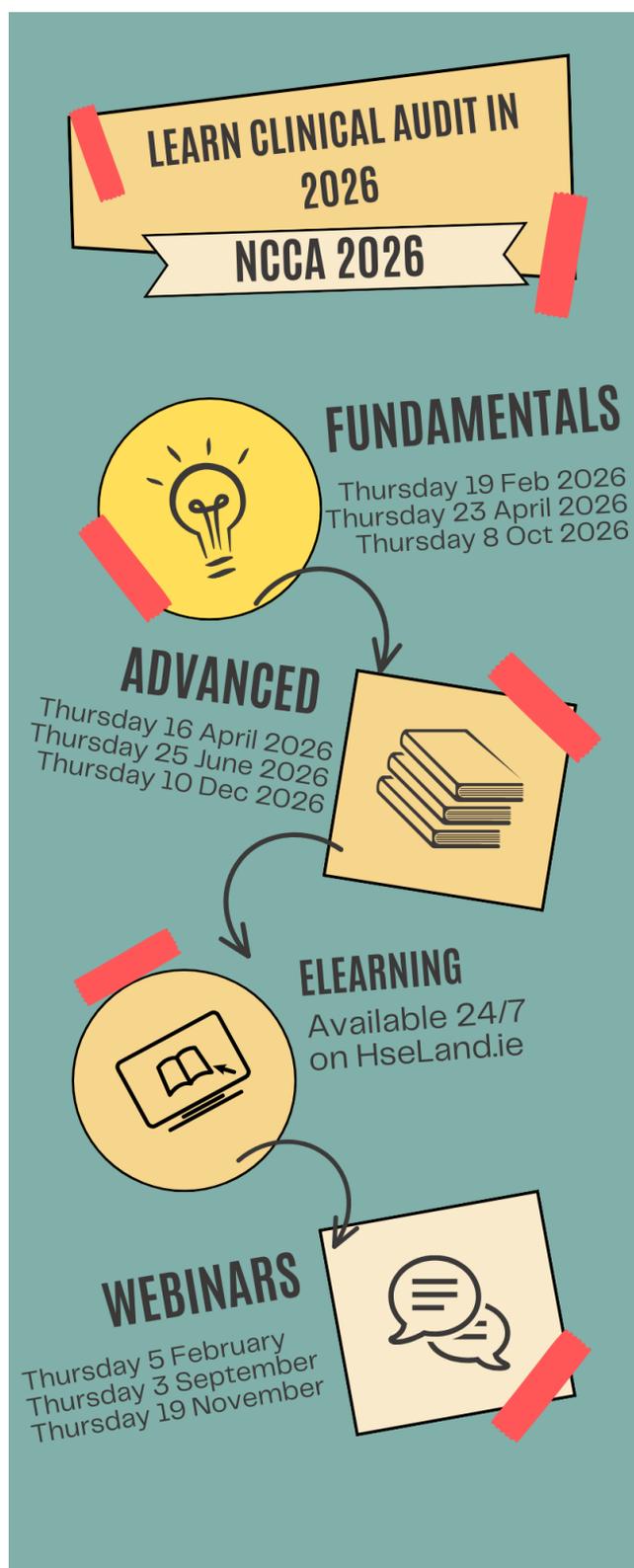
This blended approach provides a range of options for staff to meet their clinical audit training needs at the most convenient time.



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## 2. Clinical Audit Training and Education 2026



The National Centre for Clinical Audit (NCCA) for 2026 offers a comprehensive educational schedule designed to enhance clinical audit skills through a variety of learning formats.

Key components include:

- **Virtual Fundamentals Courses:** Held on 19 Feb, 23 April, and 8 October, 2026.
- **Virtual Advanced Courses:** Also available on 16 April, 25 June, and 10 December 2026.
- **ELearning Modules:** Accessible anytime via HseLand.ie, providing flexible learning opportunities.
- **Webinars:** Scheduled for 5 February, 3 September, and 19 November 2026, offering interactive sessions with experts.

These educational offerings are designed to accommodate different learning preferences and schedules, ensuring widespread access to clinical audit training.

## 2.1 Fundamentals in Clinical Audit (virtual classroom)

To provide convenience and accessibility for staff, the Fundamentals in Clinical Audit programme is provided in two formats:

- Virtual classroom delivered over Ms Teams or Webex; or
- eLearning Programme

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

In the virtual training sessions, learners will attend a full day virtually. The eLearning programme is available on HSeLanD and is self-paced over 10 hours. This 10 hour programme is being phased out in 2026 and will be replaced with a more accessible 3 hour eLearning Programme

For more on the Fundamentals in Clinical Audit eLearning programme, see section [2.2 Fundamentals in Clinical Audit \(eLearning\)](#) below.

### Virtual Session Topics

- Clinical audit context
- Clinical audit definitions (nomenclature)
- The clinical audit process: seven steps to success
- Selecting clinical audit topics and identifying best practice
- 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 virtual session is delivered over 1 day from 10am-4pm.

### Who should attend?

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 eLearning module** (duration 20 minutes) on HSeLanD prior to enrolling



## CPD/CEU Eligibility

6 CPD points – RCPI

6 CEU's hours as awarded in accordance by NMBI.

## How to Enrol

Login to HSeLanD at [www.HSeLanD.ie](http://www.HSeLanD.ie) and search the Course Catalogue for “Fundamentals in 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](mailto:ncca@hse.ie) for further information.

### Dates for Fundamentals Virtual Clinical Audit Training Sessions –

- Thursday 19 February 2026
- Thursday 23 April 2026
- Thursday 8 October 2026



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## 2.2 Fundamentals in Clinical Audit (eLearning)

As at January 2025, the NCCA offers the Fundamentals in Clinical Audit eLearning Programme through HSeLanD. The programme is available 24/7 and allows learners to access course materials at their own pace. The programme consists of 10 hours of training content. This eLearning Programme will be accessible for learners until the **end of March 2026**.

In response to learner feedback, the NCCA will be launching a new eLearning Programme of shorter duration (approximately 3 hours), which will be available from **01 April 2026**. The new programme was designed by the NCCA in partnership with the QPS Education and Improvement team in National Quality and Patient Safety. The new programme will develop learners' knowledge on clinical audit in an interactive way, guided through the seven steps of clinical audit using a clinical audit case study.

### Aim of the 10hour eLearning Programme

The aim of the 10 hour clinical audit eLearning programme 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 10hour eLearning 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.

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



## New for 2026

### **Aim of the new HSE Clinical Audit eLearning Programme: *A Practical Guide to Clinical Audit***

The aim of the new 3 hour eLearning programme 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

### **Core Content**

The new eLearning programme is designed to assist all staff to gain an understanding of the fundamentals in clinical audit with the aim of enabling them to undertake their own successful clinical audit project.

In this interactive eLearning programme, learners gain practical experience with the seven stages of clinical audit. Using a completed audit as a case example, the course demonstrates how each stage is applied in practice, building the skills needed to plan and conduct a clinical audit effectively

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon completing this programme learners will be able to:

- Define clinical audit in the context of the wider HSE clinical governance framework.
- Identify key criteria for selecting a suitable clinical audit topic.
- Recognise appropriate sources of evidence-based standards used in clinical audit.
- Differentiate between clinical audit methodologies and tools.
- Outline the ethical, confidentiality, and GDPR considerations in clinical audit data collection.
- Identify the steps in analysing clinical audit data and comparing it to standards.
- Describe the key components of a structured clinical audit report.
- Outline how to develop a quality improvement plan based on clinical audit findings.
- Explain the purpose and process of re-auditing in the clinical cycle.

### **CPD/CEU Eligibility**

10 Hour programme (available until 31 March 2026)

10 CPD points - RCPI

10 CEUs hours as awarded in accordance by NMBI.

New 3 hour programme (from 01 April 2026)

3 CPD points - RCPI

3 CEU's hours as awarded in accordance by NMBI.



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## How to Enrol eLearning

Login to [www.HSeLanD.ie](http://www.HSeLanD.ie) and search the Course Catalogue for:

- Fundamentals in Clinical Audit (through 31 March 2026); or
- A Practical Guide to Clinical Audit (from 01 April 2026)



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## 2.3 Virtual Programme: 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

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

### Duration

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

### Delivery Method

This virtual session will be delivered online via MS Teams or Webex



## CPD/CEU Eligibility

6 CPD Points – RCPI

6 CEU points hours as awarded in accordance by NMBI.

## Who should attend?

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 eLearning or virtual) or a Practical Guide to Clinical Audit as there is an expectation that all learners have a clear knowledge of clinical audit methodology or have considerable previous experience of undertaking clinical audit.

## How to Enrol

Login to HSeLanD at [www.HSeLanD.ie](http://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

**Thursday 16 April 2026**

**Thursday 25 June 2026**

**Thursday 10 December 2026**



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## 2.4 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 and issues that relate to effective clinical audit practice to improve patient care.

### Who Should Attend?

These webinars are ideal for healthcare professionals, clinical auditors, and anyone involved in quality improvement or patient safety. Whether you're new to clinical audit or building on existing experience, you'll gain practical skills and insights on applying the Patient Safety (Notifiable Incidents and Open Disclosure) Act 2023, turning audit findings into improvement, and addressing real-world challenges through interactive discussion.

### Webinar Sessions 2026

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

**Session 1: The Patient Safety Act and Clinical Audit**

**Session 2: Clinical Audit Clinic; QI and Clinical Audit: How Do I Make the Change?**

**Session 3: Clinical Audit Clinic – Your Questions Answered**

### Learning Outcomes

By attending one or more of the Clinical Audit Action Hour webinars, participants will:

1. Strengthen their understanding of clinical audit principles and their role in improving patient safety and care quality.
2. Understand the relevance of the Patient Safety Act to clinical audit practice and compliance.
3. Learn how to use audit outcomes to drive meaningful quality improvement and change in clinical settings.
4. Develop skills to interpret, present, and disseminate audit findings effectively to stakeholders.
5. Gain practical insights through interactive discussion, case examples, and Q&A on real-world audit challenges.
6. Build confidence and connections by sharing experiences and learning from peers and experts in the field.

### Duration

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



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## Delivery Method

CPD/CEU - N.A.

## Who should attend?

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](http://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

**Session 1: Thursday 5 February – The Patient Safety Act 2023 and Clinical Audit**

**Session 2: Thursday 3 September – QI and Clinical Audit: How do I make the change?**

**Session 3: Thursday 10 December – Clinical Audit Clinic- Your Questions Answered**



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### 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](http://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](#)



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