

Registering the NephWork AKI audit in your Trust

Introduction

Clinical audit is a key element in improving the quality of care and any NHS Foundation Trust is committed in that process. By definition, a clinical audit involves measuring clinical practice against pre-determined standards of best practice. As a consequence, it requires each audit project lead to specifically give details on their proposal including standards of care measured by the audit. Clinical audit projects do not require formal approval from a Research Ethics Committee, but must always be conducted within an ethical framework.

The NephWork national audit will assess the care delivered to patients with acute kidney injury (AKI) across the UK and explore the relationship between care delivered and patient outcomes. To do this, the audit must be registered in each participating Trust individually. Outlined below are the general steps that need to be taken to register an audit. Procedures do vary between Hospital Trusts, so seeking advice from the departmental audit lead and the audit department in your Trust may be helpful if this is the first audit you have registered in this particular Trust.

Registering this audit with your Trust

Normally, for each clinical audit that is to be undertaken, a clinical audit planner/proposal form must be completed by the Audit/Project Lead. The Clinical Audit planner may exist in a variety of forms and can be found in an electronic form on the Trust intranet or may be requested by email by contacting the specific Trust Audits Team. Once it has been completed, it usually needs to be returned, along with a copy of the data collection tool and a copy of the current standards of care the audit is being compared against. Whilst you will be conducting the audit and returning the data, it will be necessary for a consultant within your department to nominally be the lead for this audit locally. Whilst they are not necessarily required to take part in the practical aspects of the audit, it is important for the governance of the project that it is conducted with consultant oversight and practical local support if required.

When the specific Trust Audits Team has received these documents they will review the planner, register the audit/project on to the Trust Clinical Audit Register and send confirmation to the audit/project lead, along with the registration number and instructions regarding what actions need to be undertaken once the project is completed.

Below we have provided answers to the generic boxes that need to be completed on most audit planners.

- **AUDIT TITLE:** The NephWork audit of acute kidney injury (AKI) care and patient outcomes
- **REASON FOR CHOICE OF AUDIT:** This is an external “must do” audit.
- **BACKGROUND:** In 2009 the NCEPOD described the care delivered to patients in the UK with AKI and outcomes for these patients. In 2019 (10 years on from the original NCEPOD report) the NephWork (a group developed and led by UK Renal SpRs with the support of the Renal Association, the UK Renal Registry, the Renal Association SpR Club and Kidney Research UK) are re-auditing AKI care to review care standards and outcomes. This national audit is available to all who work in acute NHS Trusts in the UK. The audit pro-forma has been developed by the NephWork steering committee following the Renal Association AKI audit guidelines.
- **OBJECTIVES:**
 1. To audit the care delivered to patients with stage 2 and 3 AKI against recently developed national guidance (Renal Association AKI audit standards 2019).
 2. To review whether standards of care delivered influence patient outcomes through data linkage with national registries (UK Renal Registry and HES data).
- **STANDARDS:** Published guidelines (Renal Association AKI audit guidelines).
- **TYPE OF AUDIT:** National.
- **TYPE OF DATA COLLECTION:** Retrospective.
- **DATA SOURCE TO BE USED:** Case-review using medical notes and electronic health records.
- **METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION:** Electronic pro-forma hosted on a secure platform.
- **PROPOSED START DATE:** December 2020.
- **PROPOSED COMPLETION DATE:** March 2021.
- **DO YOU NEED ANY HELP FROM YOUR TRUST CLINICAL AUDIT DEPARTMENT?** No.
- **THE AUDIT WILL INVOLVE PATIENTS?** No.
- **PROFESSIONS INVOLVED:** Medical.
- **CONSULTANT LEAD:**