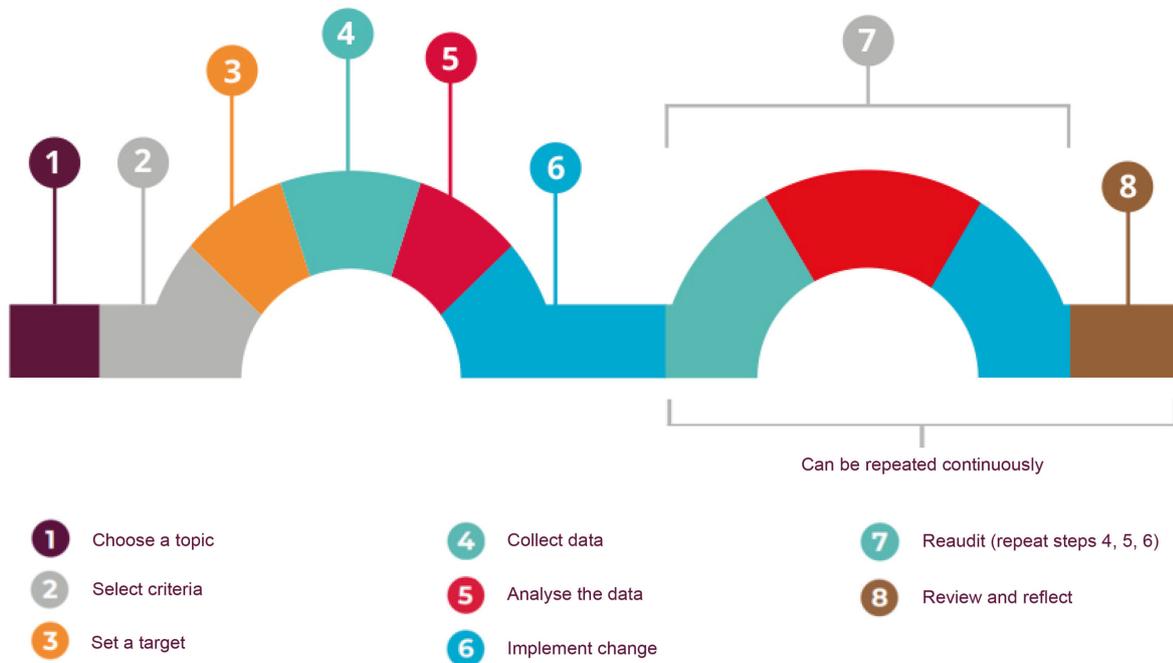


A clinical audit is a measurement process that is repeated regularly to ensure on-going engagement and a high standard of care. It can be completed in 8 stages, repeating the final 2 stages to make it a tool for continuous improvement.

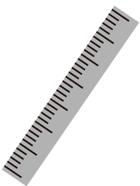


The Veterinary Clinical Audit Cycle by RCVS Knowledge. Available from www.rcvsknowledge.org
Developed by the Royal College of General Practitioners www.rcgp.org.uk/qi-ready



1. What would you like to improve?

The topic chosen should be relevant to your practice, be able to be measured, commonly encountered and have room for improvement. E.g. monitoring of hypertension in felines.



2. How will you measure improvement?

Select the criteria that will help measure improvement. It should be easily understood. You can measure processes or outcomes. E.g. Record the number of BP measurements performed over a period of two months.



3. What will your target for improvement be?

Set a target using the best available evidence and agreeing best practice. It is useful to allocate a team member to help drive improvement.

E.g. The ISFM suggest that every senior cat should have BP measurement every 6 months. The target will be to increase in the absolute numbers performed over a period of 2 months.

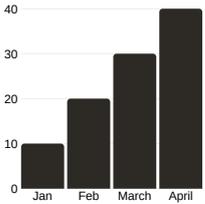
4. Collect data



Identify who needs to collect what data, in what form and how. Ensure only relevant data is collected.

E.g. Number of measurements performed, using data from the practice management system

5. Analyse the data



Compare the data with the agreed target. Note any reasons why it wasn't met and discuss these with the team.

E.g. Initial data indicated monitoring in 12% of at risk patients, or 6 cases in absolute numbers. Following the audit this increases to 78% of at risk patients. Those with co-morbidities were less likely to have BP assessed; this may be due to limited time in consultation

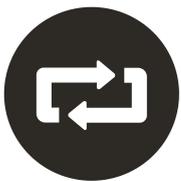
6. Implement change



Develop an action plan for any change or interventions that will assist in the target being met. Set a time to re-audit.

E.g. Raise awareness via a series of team meetings. Send written advice to relevant owners on the need for regular monitoring. Re-audit in 2 months.

7. Re-audit



Repeat steps 4 and 5 to see if the changes have made a difference. If there has been no improvement then implement a new change and repeat the cycle.

E.g. Re-audit shows further increase from 78% to 83%. Individual records of cats assessed to see why some were excluded. An outcome audit is completed measuring BP of hypertensive cats 4 months after diagnosis, to see how well thri condition is being controlled.

8. Review and reflect



Share your findings and compare your data with other relevant results.

E.g. The findings were shared with the branch practices in the area

www.rcvsknowledge.org/quality-improvement

