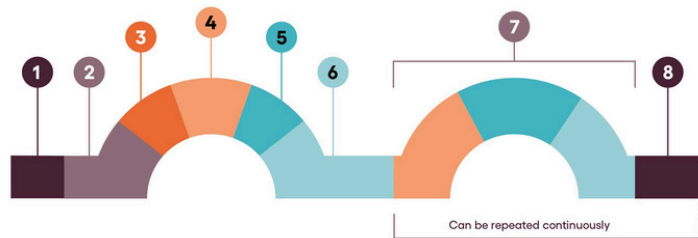


A clinical audit is a measurement process that is repeated regularly to ensure on-going engagement and a high standard of care. It can be completed in 8 stages, repeating the final 2 stages to make it a tool for continuous improvement.

The veterinary clinical audit cycle

Available from rcvsknowledge.org. Developed by the Royal College of General Practitioners rgcp.org.uk/qi-ready

- 1** Choose a topic
- 2** Select criteria
- 3** Set a target
- 4** Collect data
- 5** Analyse the data
- 6** Implement change
- 7** Reaudit (repeat steps 4, 5, 6)
- 8** Review and reflect



1. What would you like to improve?

Hold a meeting involving representatives from all teams to discuss and analyse the event and its causes to suggest where changes can be made. It is important to provide an environment where all team members are encouraged to speak freely and honestly.



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 ICC 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.

rcvsknowledge.org/quality-improvement



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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 their 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

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