

Health and Work Development Unit (HWDU)

The HWDU is a partnership between the Royal College of Physicians and the Faculty of Occupational Medicine. It aims to improve the health of the workforce through the delivery of national quality improvement projects. Using an evidence-based approach, HWDU works with OH services to improve the quality of clinical OH. It also works with organisations to improve implementation of NICE guidance for the workplace and the promotion of good health.

Further information

Register to participate at:
<https://audits.rcplondon.ac.uk/register>

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Using clinical audit to improve your practice

National occupational health clinical audit 2013

- > National clinical audit of long-term sickness absence
- > National audit of record-keeping



National audits offer a unique opportunity for all occupational health (OH) providers to focus on clinical quality.

Using robust, piloted, evidence-based tools and methodology you can:

- > measure your current practice
- > identify areas for improvement
- > implement change
- > demonstrate quality improvement.

Clinical audit supports clinicians, OH services and employers by:

- > improving consultation skills
- > improving record-keeping skills
- > improving compliance with evidence-based guidance
- > enabling clinicians and services to benchmark practice and performance

- > providing evidence of service improvement activity for Safe Effective Quality Occupational Health Service (SEQOHS)
- > providing evidence of participation in a complete cycle of clinical audit for revalidation
- > contributing to continuing professional development (CPD)
- > demonstrating your commitment to quality improvement to employers, your service and service users
- > facilitating multidisciplinary working.

‘The great thing about these audits is that we have used a really rigorous methodology to develop them and OH doctors and nurses have been involved throughout the whole process. Previous participants have not only improved their practice but also initiated healthy debate on gaps in the evidence base. The audits have created a real sense of community within teams and across the country. This is a real opportunity to show our profession’s commitment to clinical quality improvement.’ Dr Siân Williams, clinical director, HWDU

In 2013 the HWDU is opening two audit and quality improvement projects to all OH physicians, nurses and services in all industries throughout the UK.

National clinical audit of long-term sickness absence

- > **Evaluate** your clinical performance against guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on management of long-term sickness absence.
- > **Focus** on co-morbid depression, work barriers and enablers, and the use of psychological and physical therapies.
- > **Collect** evidence of compliance with SEQOHS accreditation standards C1.3 and G4.1, and revalidation audit requirements.

Between 2008 and 2010 one full cycle of this audit was completed by 82% of NHS OH services in England. In 2010 over 7000 consultations for long-term sickness absence were audited and OH services demonstrated significant improvement in nearly all areas.

National clinical audit of record keeping standards

- > **Measure** and improve your compliance with regulatory body requirements for clinical record-keeping and benchmark against OH services nationally.
- > **Collect** evidence of compliance with SEQOHS accreditation standard B1.1.

Register now

Participation in either one of these audit projects costs £750 (excl VAT). Participation in both audit projects is £1,250 (excl VAT). Within each topic if you would like to submit more than one dataset (ie if you wish to audit more than one OH team or would like to audit by individual) there will be a fee of £95 (excl VAT) per additional dataset. Each service that submits more than one dataset may choose to receive a free consolidated service level report. Register to participate at: <https://audits.rcplondon.ac.uk/register>