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Iechyd Cyhoeddus  
Cymru  
Public Health  
Wales

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## CLINICAL AUDIT POLICY

### Policy Statement

This Policy sets out the necessary requirements for Public Health Wales (PHW) to deliver its aims, objectives, responsibilities and legal requirements transparently and consistently relating to clinical audit.

The [Duty of Quality](#) (as part of the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020) requires NHS bodies in Wales to conduct assessment of improvement in outcomes achieved through national clinical audit and internal audit programmes (section 9.12). Organisations are required to ensure they have systems and processes in place to provide assurance mechanisms in relation to clinical effectiveness and service delivery, of which clinical audit is key (section 10.7).

We will develop and describe our “ways of working” in:

- Making national clinical audit data available to support publication of activity and outcome statistics
- Implement and/or respond to all relevant recommendations of any appropriate clinical audit
- Implement an ongoing, proportionate programme of clinical audit of our organisation’s services in accordance with best practice
- Participate in national clinical audits within the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP) relevant to Public Health Wales’s services

The intended outcome of this policy is to support a culture of best practice in the management and delivery of clinical audit.

This policy aligns with the following strategic priorities:

- Delivering excellent public health services
- Supporting a sustainable health and care system

This policy is to be read in conjunction with [Quality and Clinical Audit Procedure](#).

### Policy Commitment

The intended outcome of this policy is to set out the rationale for clinical audit and provide a framework for such activity, including adherence to standards, guidance, and procedures.

Clinical audit is integral to improving quality, safety and service delivery in Wales. Audit provides an invaluable insight into the quality of services being provided and monitors how well improvements are being taken forward.

Public Health Wales uses clinical audit as an essential tool to drive quality improvement and provide quality assurance. Pivotal to this is directing comprehensive action towards areas of not meeting best practice standards. Quality is defined in the Duty of Quality as continuously, reliably, and sustainably meeting the needs of the population that we serve. In achieving this, NHS bodies will need to ensure that health services are safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable and person-centred. These quality dimensions provide a framework to assess quality and guide improvement, and clinical audit is a key mechanism to achieve this.

PHW's Audit Team will provide oversight of the clinical audit programme and monitoring of the audit management system in compliance with this policy. The Audit Team will also provide support to staff to develop and design clinical audit projects.

This policy states the commitment of the organisation to ensure that all clinical services undertake a programme of clinical audit to provide assurance of clinical effectiveness and quality, and drive improvement.

This policy is intended to complement and not supersede existing guidance offered by professional bodies.

### **Supporting Procedures and Written Control Documents**

[All corporate policies and procedures are available on the Public Health Wales website](#)

This policy will be supported by the Quality and Clinical Audit Procedure, which describes the process for identifying, registering, undertaking and reporting clinical audits in PHW.

Both the policy and procedure are underpinned by The Duty of Quality, as part of the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020.

Interdependencies with other policy/control documents:

1. [Clinical Governance Framework](#)
2. [Information Governance](#)
3. [Risk Management Policy](#)

### **Scope**

This policy applies to anyone engaged in clinical audit processes within Public Health Wales, in all locations, including:

- All staff, including all levels of management, clinicians and non-clinicians and those on short term or honorary contracts
- Students and trainees in any discipline
- Participants, volunteers, patients and members of the public

This policy also applies when clinical audit is undertaken jointly across organisational boundaries.

<b>Impact Assessments</b>	An Equality Health Impact Assessment can be viewed on the policy webpages.
<b>Approved by</b>	Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee
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<b>Group with authority to approve supporting procedures</b>	PHW Leadership Team
<b>Accountable Executive Director/Director</b>	Executive Director of Nursing, Quality and Integrated Governance
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### Disclaimer

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### Summary of reviews/amendments

Version number	Date of Review	Date of Approval	Date published	Summary of Amendments
1	2025	25/11/25	11/12/25	New policy