



# An Audit of Audits

HOW HAVE THE OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY AUDITS AT FIONA STANLEY HOSPITAL, A WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TERTIARY CENTRE, PERFORMED OVER 3 YEARS.

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As part of the Safety, Quality and Risk (SQR) team, we facilitate departmental Quality Improvement (QI) activities, including audits. We promote satisfactory progression through the audit cycle to close the audit loop, thereby optimising invested resources, patient safety, clinician engagement and educational opportunities for rotational junior doctors.

**AIMS:** To investigate if our audits systematically complete the stages of an audit cycle. Additionally, we identify what proportion of our audits are consultant-led, the duration of audits and which aspect of patient care is being addressed.

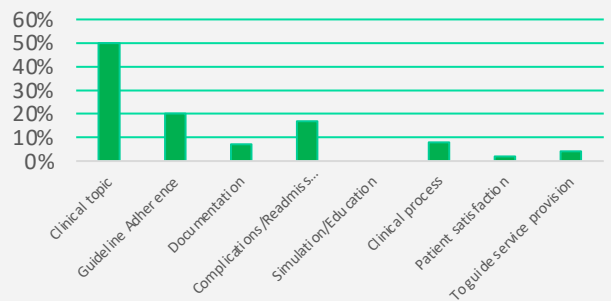
**METHODS:** Data was collected from the hospital-wide QI database over 3 years. We included O&G medical audits. Non-O&G led audits and research projects mislabelled as audits were excluded.

## RESULTS

46 out of 57 ( 80.7%) projects were included.

- ✓ Consultants were involved in 93.5%.
- ✓ 87% were completed within 1 year.
- ✓ 97% of projects of over 6-month duration were completed.

## What was being investigated?



## Adherence to the stages of an audit cycle

## Standard met?

Aim Defined	100%	
Inclusion criteria provided	96%	
Exclusion criteria provided	91%	
Data collection method given	96%	
Data analysis method given	80%	
Appropriate data analysis	70%	✘
Standard defined	61%	✘

- 32.7% were Obstetrics and 14.3% were Gynaecology audits.
- 3 were Covid-19 related audits. 2 were re-audits of prior projects. 2 were recurring departmental audits.

## Audit outcomes

58.8% of audits met their standards. 5 projects provided baseline data to larger ongoing departmental QI initiatives. Excluding these, standards were unmet in 9 cases (26.5%)

- ✓ Recommendations were made in all and implemented in 8 audits (88.9%).
- ❖ Re-audit or planned re-audit rate was 44.4%.
- ✓ Audit loops were closed in 71.7% by primarily meeting standards or on re-audit.

## DISCUSSION

We performed well in providing consultant supervision, completing most projects and doing so within an adequate timeframe. Equally satisfactory was the closing of audit loops and implementation of recommendations.

Identification of relevant standards and re-audit however was suboptimal. Recommendations of this audit have provided insight into the role of our SQR team and defined practical ways to enhance the quality and impact of our QI projects.