



**PWYLLGOR ANSAWDD, DIOGELWCH A SICRHAU PROFIOD
QUALITY, SAFETY AND EXPERIENCE ASSURANCE COMMITTEE**

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	08 February 2022
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:	Clinical Audit Update
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:	Mandy Rayani, Director of Nursing, Quality & Patient Experience
SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:	Ian Bebb, Clinical Audit Manager

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)

Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)

Ar Gyfer Trafodaeth/For Discussion

**ADRODDIAD SCAA
SBAR REPORT**

Sefyllfa / Situation

To provide a position statement to the Quality, Safety and Experience Committee (QSEC) on clinical audit activity.

Cefndir / Background

The Health Board develops an annual Clinical Audit Programme which is carried out by the services. This programme consists of a list of key clinical audit projects that have been prioritised in line with Health Board (service specific or otherwise) aims and objectives. This programme also includes all projects mandated by Welsh Government, National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review Plan (NCAORP) and other national bodies. National benchmarking is possible through this mechanism.

Due to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, clinical teams have been less able to engage in audit activity. While many audit projects are being maintained, and new audits are underway, certain projects and audit reporting requirements have presented challenges. Welsh Government has recognised this and has accepted delays in reporting and audit outcomes, both from the national audit providers and from Health Boards.

National Clinical Audit

On 19th March 2020, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer wrote to Health Boards indicating that all clinical audit data collection would be suspended. Welsh Government arrived at this decision in consultation with the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) who run the National programme. There is no expectation that data collection would be completed retrospectively after the crisis has abated. The Health Board has maintained a number of projects during this time period.

Asesiad / Assessment

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a significant reduction in the demand for clinical audit activity.

Resource for Clinical Audit

Available resource for clinical audit within the Health Board remains variable within the specialties. Certain specialties have been significantly impacted by the pandemic and, as a result, have been unable to contribute to all of the national and local audits, although a variety of audits have been initiated and completed.

Resource issues within the Clinical Audit Department has become a concern, with the inability to recruit for Bronglais General Hospital despite repeated recruitment attempts. The Clinical Audit Department has been working with Recruitment and Media teams and are considering a different Departmental structure to mitigate this loss as well as provide enhanced stability for the future.

The Department will have the opportunity to explore a new clinical audit software package in 2022. This software will also be used for National Guidance and has a variety of other modules. The intention is to bring a more streamlined approach to clinical audit and clinical guidance administration as well as increased accessibility and transparency. This system has been adopted by 4 Health Boards in Wales as well as a number of Trusts in England.

National Clinical Audit Update

The NCAORP is again underway in Wales. Welsh Government wrote to Health Boards in May 2021 indicating that England wished to resume a formal audit programme and that Wales would be expected to follow suit. At that time the Clinical Audit Department resumed its usual response to the programme and processes although discretion has been given to individual Health Boards regarding participation. It has been made very clear by Welsh Government that clinical priorities must take precedence especially in light of the ongoing and continued development of the pandemic response.

No further correspondence regarding the programme has been provided by Welsh Government and the above stance continues to be upheld.

The vast majority of NCAORP audits are still running in the Health Board although some clinical teams have struggled at various points to maintain full contribution. All projects continue to be assessed by the Clinical Audit Scrutiny Panel (CASP) who are liaising with services regarding improvement plans.

Clinical Audit Programme 2021/22

The Clinical Audit Department has been working with the services regarding the above programme. A reduced number of projects were submitted for the current programme and current uptake has stalled due to clinical pressures.

The Clinical Audit Department will continue to work with the services to see these projects through to completion, many of which will likely carry over to 2022/23. Further discussions around the programme will be held at CASP. The use of new technology is hoped to make clinical audit resources and engagement more visible and accessible.

The programme was intended to focus on the recovery from COVID-19, reflecting audits that assess care during and after, provide evidence for effective new ways of working, service redesign or areas that have been identified as a risk during the pandemic. It has become clear that this has not been entirely possible due to the continuation of the pandemic and the impact

of new variants. It is hoped that the next programme for 2022-23 will instead be able to focus on these areas.

Clinical Audit Scrutiny Panel

The Panel continues to meet and is now under the direction of the new Chair and Clinical Director for Clinical Audit. The Panel has invited a small number of services to attend and discuss participation concerns with mandatory projects. It is worth noting that all attending services have presented robust improvement plans and the panel has received assurance that projects will resume.

The Panel continues to monitor NCAORP projects and has invited other services to the next meeting in February 2022 to discuss participation.

Shared Learning

The Clinical Audit Department resumed its programme of Whole Hospital Audit meetings (WHAM) for 2021 in line with pre COVID-19 plans. Three dates have been successfully delivered and the next session will be held in March 2022.

The Clinical Audit Department now alternates between site based learning and Whole Health Board events. The first Whole Health Board event was held in September 2021 and was met with considerable positivity from clinical teams. Three key national projects were presented as well as a Health Board wide audit on social distancing. There was also a presentation from the Chief Medical Examiner for Wales to discuss the recently developed Medical Examiner Service.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The Quality, Safety and Experience Committee is asked to:

- Note the reinstatement of the NCAORP by Welsh Government and the discretion to be applied regarding participation which is being addressed at CASP;
- Note the continued reduction in clinical audit activity during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Note the continuation and commencement of a number of local and national projects;
- Note the continuation and success of WHAM;
- Note the work around the clinical audit programmes.

Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau)

Objectives: (must be completed)

Committee ToR Reference: Cyfeirnod Cylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor:	5.17 Shape and approve the annual clinical audit plan, ensuring that internally commissioned audits are aligned with strategic priorities.
Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	Nursing Quality and Patient Experience Risk Reference 275 Risk Score 12
Safon(au) Gofal ac Iechyd: Health and Care Standard(s):	3.1 Safe and Clinically Effective Care 3.3 Quality Improvement, Research and Innovation 3.4 Information Governance and Communications Technology

	3.5 Record Keeping
Nodau Gwella Ansawdd: Quality Improvement Goal(s):	All Quality Improvement Goals Apply
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	4. Improve the productivity and quality of our services using the principles of prudent health care and the opportunities to innovate and work with partners.
Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives Annual Report 2018-2019	2. Develop a skilled and flexible workforce to meet the changing needs of the modern NHS

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol: Further Information:	
Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	Welsh Health Circular 2019 006: National Clinical Audit Annual Plan Letter from DCMO 19.03.2020 Letter from HQIP 20.03.2020 Correspondence from Welsh Government May 2021
Rhestr Termiau: Glossary of Terms:	NCAORP – National Clinical Audit and Outcome Review Programme CASP – Clinical Audit Scrutiny Panel
Partion / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Pwyllgor Ansawdd, Diogelwch a Sicrhau Profiod: Parties / Committees consulted prior to Quality, Safety and Experience Assurance Committee:	Mandy Rayani, Director of Nursing, Quality and Patient Experience

Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)	
Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	None.
Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:	Failure to participate in clinical audit and to conduct it effectively could lead to concerns not being identified and subsequent improvements in services not being made. During the COVID-19 pandemic participation in audit activity will divert resource away from clinical areas and as a result would negatively impact on the Health Board's ability to respond to the outbreak.

Gweithlu: Workforce:	During the pandemic much of the relevant workforce for clinical audit was deployed elsewhere or are focusing on clinical priorities. This remains the case in some specialties. The Clinical Audit Department is currently operating at reduced staffing levels due to repeated failed recruitment.
Risg: Risk:	<p>There is a risk that services cannot provide quality assurance or focus on quality improvement. This is balanced against the need to respond to the continued crisis. The impact of this is also limited due to the reduction in patient samples (e.g. elective surgery).</p> <p>The risk to clinical services is minimised by not diverting resources to clinical audit projects.</p>
Cyfreithiol: Legal:	None.
Enw Da: Reputational:	There is little risk to reputational impact during this pandemic as Welsh Government suspended audit data collection and assurance reports. Though this has resumed there is an expectation that Health Boards prioritise clinical requirements.
Gyfrinachedd: Privacy:	N/A
Cydraddoldeb: Equality:	There is variability in participation for national audit across the organisation which means that practice cannot be compared locally or nationally and inequality of care may not be identified. This does not have a direct impact on equality - only that it is more difficult to measure.