

A Joint Healthcare Conferences UK
and Clinical Audit Support Centre Masterclass

Clinical Audit Masterclass

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Thursday 11th December 2025
Tuesday 3rd March 2026
Wednesday 10th June 2026
Thursday 10th September 2026
Tuesday 8th December 2026

Virtual Masterclass
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Facilitated by:
Stephen Ashmore
Director
Clinical Audit Support Centre

Tracy Ruthven
Director
Clinical Audit Support Centre



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“Effective care means care that should be provided to evidence-based standards to people who need it”

Penny Dash, Review of patient safety across the health and care landscape (July 2025)

“Clinical audit is a way to generate discussion, to understand where our outliers are and to deliver quality improvement”

*Dr Stella Vig, National Medical Director for Secondary Care and Quality at NHS England
(Clinical Audit for Improvement Summit, March 2025)*

Clinical audit is gaining momentum and is viewed by NHS England as a key driver to help deliver the 10 Year NHS Health Plan for England. The new plan puts a strong emphasis on quality measures that will be available to the public, whilst placing a renewed focus on outcome measures and quality improvement. The plan states *“as healthcare becomes more data-driven, the NHS has a huge advantage”*. The most forward-thinking organisations will be harnessing existing local and national audit data and creating new bespoke clinical audit projects that will provide vital insights into current care delivery.

The Dash Review highlights the value of clinical audit in stating *“The NHS is one of the most data-rich healthcare systems in the world and has historically been at the forefront of collecting and reviewing data for clinical audit purposes”*. Furthermore *“there is considerable opportunity to build on this with more data sharing across organisations”*. Over the next decade, the emphasis will undoubtedly be on multi-disciplinary and interface clinical audit projects that provide the greatest insights into current care.

Moreover, the Care Quality Commission will increasingly be drawing on clinical audit data when inspecting healthcare providers and the Leng Review (2025) confirmed that physician associates should be participating in useful clinical audit projects. While the Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF) has been embedded for some time, many NHS teams remain unclear on the key role clinical audit can play in ensuring the effective delivery of PSIRF. As an example, audits provide insights into ‘work as done’, can help supplement investigations in better understanding why patient safety incidents have occurred and help teams respond directly to patient complaints.

The masterclass will be facilitated by Stephen Ashmore and Tracy Ruthven, who collectively have worked in clinical audit for over 50 years. Stephen and Tracy will lead this interactive workshop that will provide a step-by-step guide through the clinical audit process and explain key methodologies. All learners who complete the course will appreciate what a clinical audit is and is not and understand how to lead an effective clinical audit project from start to finish. The session has been fully updated to link to recent national publications, many listed above. Moreover, in addition to receiving a certificate of attendance, all learners are eligible to complete a post-course assignment that will enable them to gain the Level 3, industry standard qualification in clinical audit.

This masterclass will enable you to:

- Understand how clinical audit links to key recent national publications such as the 10 Year NHS Health Plan for England, Dash and Leng Reviews, etc.
- Understand why clinical audit plays a key role in PSIRF and keeping patient safe
- Understand how clinical audit differs from research and other QI methodologies
- Lead an effective clinical audit project from inception to writing for publication
- Gain key skills needed by those facilitating clinical audit projects
- Understand how to motivate colleagues to work collaboratively on audits
- Understand how to avoid common pitfalls that typically de-rail audit projects
- Examine ‘real life’ clinical audit projects and critique case studies
- Gain CPD accreditation points for professional development and undertake an assignment leading to a Level 3 qualification in clinical audit.

VIRTUAL TIMETABLE

09:45 INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Objectives of the day
Guiding you through the landing page and resources available
Information on how to complete the Level 3 course assignment

10:00 WHY CLINICAL AUDIT IS IMPORTANT IN 2025

Current NHS England and CQC thinking on clinical audit
How clinical audit aligns with the 10 Year NHS Health Plan and Dash/Leng reviews

10:30 DEFINING CLINICAL AUDIT

How does clinical audit compare to research and other QI methodologies?
Tools for helping determine if a project is a clinical audit
Delivering clinical audit in line with GDPR and confidentiality requirements

11:00 COMFORT BREAK

11:20 THE FUNDAMENTALS OF CONDUCTING A CLINICAL AUDIT: PART 1

Step 1: Choosing your clinical audit topic and forming your stakeholder team
Step 2: Identifying best practice and setting audit standards
Step 3: Data collection

Note: Stephen and Tracy will provide a range of 'real-world' clinical audit case studies as they work through the seven-steps involved in conducting a clinical audit project. This will help learners to distinguish between best practice and poor practice.

13:00 LUNCH BREAK

13:30 THE FUNDAMENTALS OF CONDUCTING A CLINICAL AUDIT: PART 2

Step 4: Data analysis and sharing results
Step 5: Implementing changes and action planning

14:40 COMFORT BREAK

14:50 THE FUNDAMENTALS OF CONDUCTING A CLINICAL AUDIT: PART 3

Step 6: Conducting the re-audit
Step 7: How to write your clinical audit report and guidance on publishing it

15:30 CLINICAL AUDIT OPEN DISCUSSION: LOOKING AT A RANGE OF ISSUES

What are the key skills needed by effective clinical audit leads/facilitators
What are the common traps and pitfalls clinical audit projects fall into?
What does the future hold for clinical audit? What impact might AI have?

15:50 CONCLUDING REMARKS

16:00 END OF FORMAL TEACHING

Note: Stephen and Tracy will remain online for a further 15 minutes until 16:15 to answer any additional questions that learners may wish to ask.

All learners who undertake this Masterclass will gain CPD accreditation points contributing to professional development and revalidation evidence. Learners can opt to undertake a short-written assignment following the one-day course that upon successful completion will lead to a Level 3 clinical audit qualification. This is the 'industry standard' qualification held by many clinical audit and effectiveness professionals. Eligibility to work for the Level 3 qualification is included in the course fee.

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Clinical Audit Masterclass

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Venue

These will be virtual masterclasses on Zoom with interactive breakout sessions and resources available on a dedicated landing page for three months after the date.

Date

- ☐ Thursday 11th December 2025
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Virtual Fee

£295 + VAT (£354.00) for NHS, Social care, private

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