

Clinical Audit

Patient Information Leaflet

What is Clinical Audit?

Clinical audit is one of the ways the Hospital checks that the care we provide to patients is of a good standard and looks to find areas where we can improve patient care.

Clinical audit is done by measuring the care provided to patients against known standards of good care, using information from the Hospital's healthcare records. The audit results tell us how good care is and if there are areas for improvement. Once steps are taken to improve care, another audit is done to be sure the care has improved.

Why is Clinical Audit Important?

Clinical audit helps the Hospital to measure how good patient care is and see where we can improve care. We also use information from audits to plan new services for patients.

What types of Clinical Audit are done?

Here are some examples of the clinical audits that the Hospital does:

- Medication Audits to make sure that patients always get the correct medication
- Infection Control Audits to check that the right things are being done to prevent infections
- The National Intensive Care Unit Audit to measure the care given in our Intensive Care Unit

Many clinical audits are done within the Hospital. The Hospital also does clinical audits with other Hospitals and healthcare organisations in Ireland and in other countries so that we can compare the treatment and care we provide with other Hospitals and learn from the best performing Hospitals.

How might Clinical Audit effect me ?

The information from clinical audit helps the Hospital to check that the care we provide to you is of a high standard and also helps us in providing new services and improvements.

To do this, Hospital staff who have been given permission to do audit, review the information that is held in the records of the treatment and care that we have provided to you. All staff in St James's Hospital have a legal duty to keep your information confidential and secure.

The Hospital does not ask for your specific consent to use the information in the healthcare records because personal details are not used and therefore people cannot be identified in the audit reports.

If your personal details must be used during a clinical audit, for example if you are taking an active part in the audit process, then you will be asked to give your consent. Your personal information will never be included in audit findings or an audit report.

Will I be informed of the Clinical Audit findings?

If an audit shows that problems with the care you received could have caused you harm, you will be told about this in an open, honest and timely manner by a senior member of Hospital staff.

Where can I get further information?

If you have queries about clinical audit, please contact the Clinical Audit Office using the contact details below.

Clinical Audit Office Tel: 01 416 2153 Email: clinicalaudit@stjames.ie