



The Royal College of **Pathologists**
Pathology: the science behind the cure

Online scheme for certification of high quality clinical audit



Introduction to high quality clinical audit

The Royal College of Pathologists offers a scheme for the certification of high quality clinical audit projects. The scheme is voluntary and will certify audits that follow the audit cycle methodology and meet the criteria and standards (www.rcpath.org/auditstandards) set by the College. The process will quality assure the standard of clinical audit.

The scheme offers a national stamp of quality for whenever evidence of self-scrutiny and dissemination of best practice is required especially for revalidation.

Why audit is important?

It is very important that pathologists undertake high quality clinical audits that demonstrate the effectiveness of learning and actions taken as a result of audit and quantifies improvements in the quality of your performance or that of the pathology service, for example:

- benefit to patient care
- benefit to Health Care Professionals
- benefit to the pathology service.

Recently published audits

Recently published audits are available to download from the College website

www.rcpath.org/publishedaudit

The purpose of the certification scheme

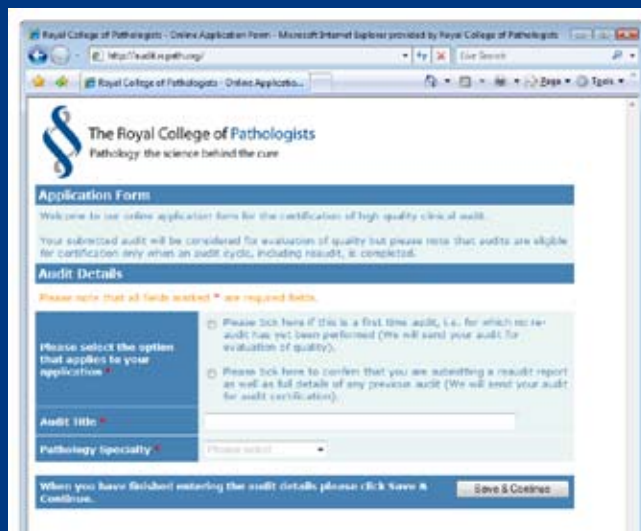
Completed audits are peer evaluated and if successful they will be awarded a Certificate of Quality of Clinical Audit and 5 CPD credits. You can also submit first time audits for evaluation to validate the audit process being used and ensure re-audit will be of value. Constructive feedback from evaluators will be provided to the author and should inform development.

Audit submission

We request you to submit your audit for evaluation via the College website
<http://audit.rcpath.org>

The scheme application form gives you the option to submit two different types of audits.

1. First time audit i.e. for which no re-audit has yet been performed.
2. Re-audit. Submission must contain full details of re-audit and first time audit.



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Application Form' for the Royal College of Pathologists. The page title is 'The Royal College of Pathologists Pathology: the science behind the cure'. The form is titled 'Application Form' and includes a welcome message: 'Welcome to our online application form for the certification of high quality clinical work. Your submitted audit will be considered for evaluation of quality but please note that audits are eligible for certification only when an audit cycle, including results, is completed.' The 'Audit Details' section contains a note: 'Please note that all fields marked * are required fields.' There are two radio button options: 'Please tick here if this is a first time audit, i.e. for which no re-audit has yet been performed (We will send your audit for evaluation of quality).' and 'Please tick here to confirm that you are submitting a re-audit report as well as full details of any previous audit (We will send your audit for audit verification)'. Below these are input fields for 'Audit title' and 'Pathology specialty'. At the bottom, there is a 'Save & Continue' button and a note: 'When you have finished entering the audit details please click Save & Continue.'

Evaluation

A preliminary evaluation of your audit will be carried out by the Audit and Quality Co-ordinator at the College, to ensure that the audit meets the general criteria and standards for submission required by the College. The audit will then be assessed by a panel of approved evaluators drawn from all specialties. The evaluators only review applications in their own specialty and will carry out the evaluation independently of each other.

The evaluators assess whether the detailed criteria and standards are met for the specialty, review the audit application, reach a conclusion as to whether the audit is satisfactory or unsatisfactory and provide constructive feedback, where appropriate, to the College. After the feedback from the evaluators is collated and scrutinised this is shared with the author of the audit. Feedback provided by the evaluators will be anonymised.

Further information

For more information and to submit your completed audit for evaluation please visit the clinical audit section on the website www.rcpath.org/auditcertification

Contact details

Maria Marrero Feo - Audit & Quality Co-ordinator
audit@rcpath.org
020 7451 6737



The Royal College of Pathologists
2 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AF, UK
Tel: 020 7451 6700, Fax: 020 7451 6701, www.rcpath.org
Registered Charity in England and Wales no.261035