

AIMS AND BENEFITS OF AUDIT: RADIOTHERAPY



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- **I do not have any conflict of interest to disclose.**



Definition

Careful
examination/evaluation of:
personnel
organization or system
process(es)



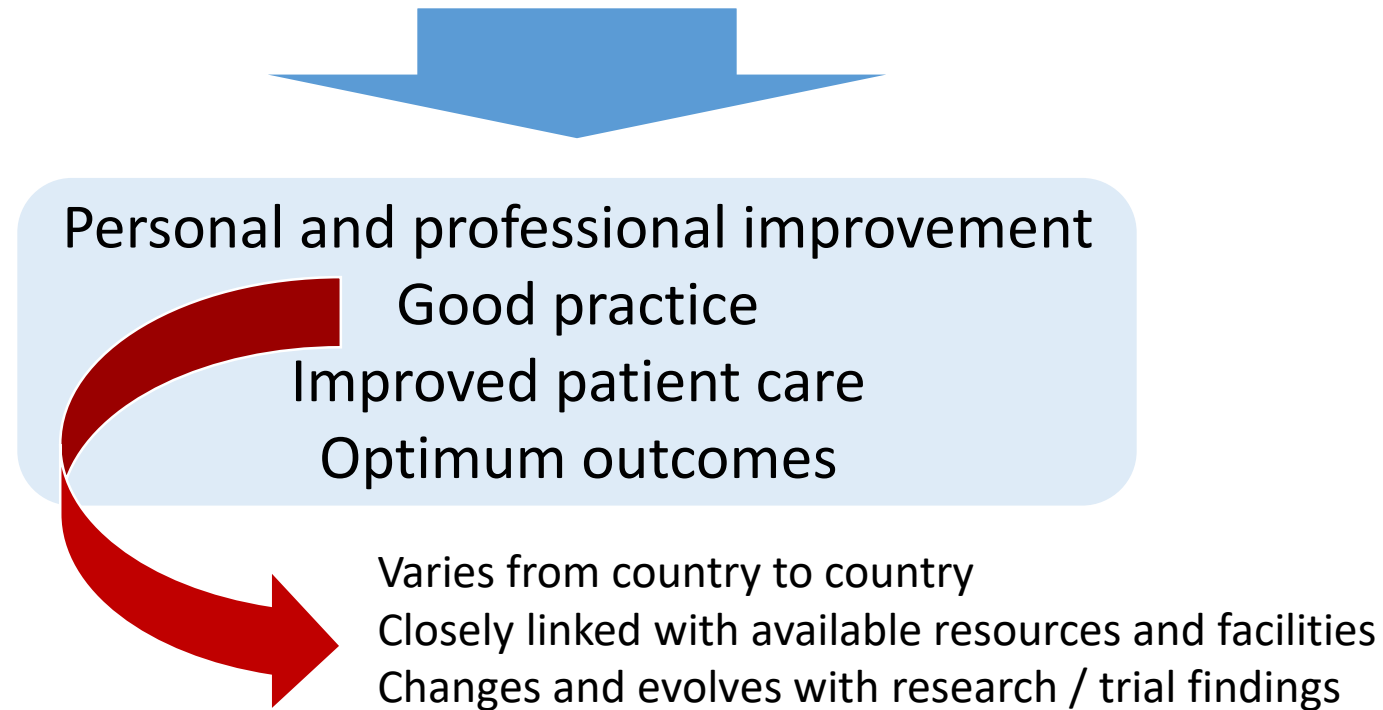
- ✓ Assessment of the current situation against agreed criteria or standards
- ✓ Action on the findings
- ✓ Continuous improvement in the quality of care delivered

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- A ***systematic*** and ***continuing*** activity
 - Part of an ongoing ***learning curve***

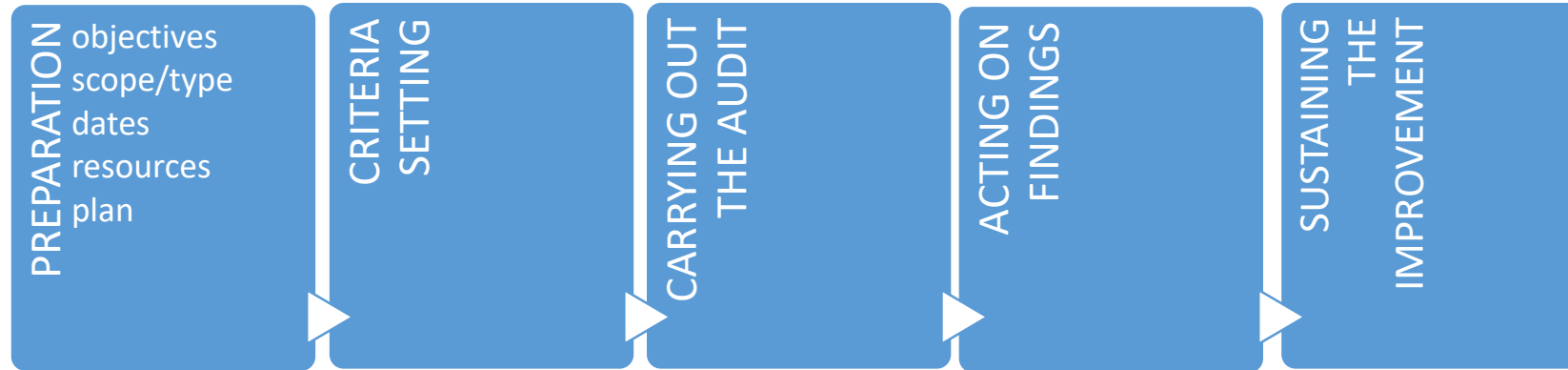


Aims

- to ascertain the validity and reliability of information
- to provide an assessment of the system's internal control



Components

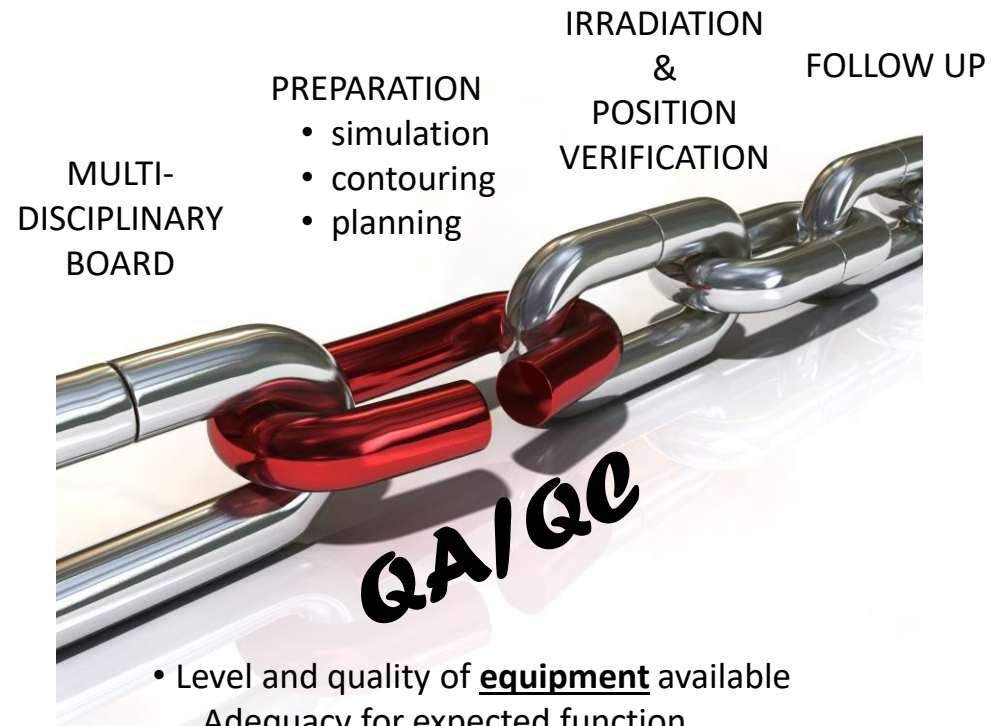


- **Resources** Staff and equipment
- **Processes** Actions and decisions taken
- **Outcomes** How are outcomes measured in the clinical setting



RT: staff & process

- Radiation Oncologists
- RTTs
- Medical Physicists & Dosimetrists
- Other staff members
nurses, administrators



- Level and quality of **equipment** available
 - Adequacy for expected function
- **Facilities** available
- Role of the involved **professionals**
 - Appropriateness of their educational background
- **Current practice**
 - Meets agreed / accepted standards
 - Follows published guidelines
 - Applies knowledge gained through research
 - Applied in the appropriate setting
- **Protocols** (development, updating, adherence)



Benefits: for the department

- **Exit meeting**: participating staff and the audit team
 - Detailed and open discussion of the findings
 - Opportunity for comment, discussion and clarification
- **Audit Report**: comprehensive report of the findings



- What actions need to be taken?
- What are the barriers to change locally?
- How can these be overcome?

Offer help and advice where difficulties exist



Benefits: general

- **Sustaining improvement:**

- Developing performance indicators
- Measuring adherence to protocols
- Learning from incidents and near incidents
- Supporting a dynamic and motivated approach to practice improvement



Model audit



QUATRO initiative

= **comprehensive** independent **external** clinical audit conducted by a **multidisciplinary team**

- ✓ Fact finding and interpretation through a systematic examination of clinical procedures
- ✓ Methodology can be applied in a wide range of economic and cultural settings

Offer help and advice where difficulties exist

- Improve practice for benefit of the patient
- Identify priorities for planning of the department
- Ensure safety and compliance
- Solicit funding
- View towards training and up-skilling of staff

