

Introduction

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this important survey on clinical audit which forms a key part of the [QuADRANT project](#) undertaken on behalf of the European Commission, led by the [European Society of Radiology](#) (ESR) together with the [European Association of Nuclear Medicine](#) (EANM) and the [European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology](#) (ESTRO) with input from other key national, European and international organisations.

The survey is not long (ca. 30 questions) and the majority of responses are tick-box, with the opportunity for free text where appropriate. Responses are returned to the office of the ESR where national data will be analysed and later presented at a multidisciplinary QuADRANT conference. The survey findings will form part of a report to the European Commission providing a collection of best practices, guidance and recommendations on improving the integration of clinical audit of medical practice into European healthcare systems. The survey also aims to assess existing healthcare related clinical audit practice as mandated within the European Basic Safety Standards Directive ([Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom](#)). The survey looks to identify potential barriers to effective participation in clinical audit and what provisions/changes might facilitate improvement.

The survey is divided into two main sections:

- **Section 1** examines clinical audit processes and infrastructures as part of everyday clinical practice, with an emphasis on the core project disciplines of diagnostic and interventional radiology (also including interventional cardiology), radiotherapy and nuclear medicine (to include therapies).
- **Section 2** relates to the requirement for clinical audit as defined within the European Basic Safety Standards Directive and its enforcement through regulatory inspection.

Participants may complete either Section 1 or Section 2 alone, or they may complete both parts, depending on their individual experience and field of interest. Joint survey completion e.g. by national audit administrative and HERCA (WGMA, working group medical applications) representatives is also encouraged where feasible. The identity of survey responders will be anonymised at the time of presentation. Survey participants are directed towards the accompanying definitions/terms in use section which will facilitate survey completion.

Please note that there is **NO SAVE FUNCTION** on the Survey Monkey platform – **you cannot partially complete the survey and return at a later date**. For this reason, we recommend that you prepare your answers using this PDF of the questions and also the [definitions](#) before completing the online survey.

Should you have any questions about the survey, or encounter any difficulties, please contact eu-affairs@myesr.org

Background Questions:

- **In what capacity are you completing this survey? If you provide joint responses, please tick all of the organisations involved. Please provide your responses/perspectives according to your role.**
 - On behalf of a national society (ESR network)
 - On behalf of a national society (EANM network)
 - On behalf of a national society (ESTRO network)
 - National Audit Administrator
 - National Health Authority representative
 - National Radiation Protection Authority /Competent Authority representative
 - National HERCA (WGMA) representative
 - Other (please specify)

- **Please select the country for which you are responding**
 - Dropdown list of EU27 countries plus Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, and UK.

- **Email Address (in case of query / follow up)**
 - We would be grateful if you would provide this.

Section 1

- **With regards to hospital participation in national or regional clinical audit programmes and hospital accreditation in your country (select one answer):**
 - Evidence of participation in clinical audit is required if the hospital applies for accreditation
 - Evidence of participation in clinical audit is not mandatory for accreditation
 - No system of hospital accreditation in place
 - Don't know

- **Is there participation in European/international clinical audits (e.g., IAEA, WHO) in your country?**
 - At individual, healthcare professional level? (select one answer)**
 - Yes - as auditor
 - Yes - being audited
 - No
 - Don't know

 - At departmental, hospital level? (select one answer)**
 - Yes - as auditor
 - Yes - being audited
 - No
 - Don't know

 - At national professional society level? (select one answer)**
 - Yes - as auditor
 - Yes - being audited
 - No
 - Don't know

- **At what level does governance and policy development of clinical audit activity occur in your country? (multiple answers can be selected)**
 - National
 - State/county (within country)
 - Region (within country)
 - Hospital
 - Departmental
 - Individual/healthcare professional
 - No clinical audit activity or oversight
 - Don't know

- **Is there a central body in your country responsible for clinical audit policy development and governance? (select one answer)**
 - Yes, governmental/ health ministry affiliated
 - Yes, but not governmental/health ministry affiliated
 - No – but in development
 - No

- **If 'yes', please provide details, including, if appropriate, links to websites etc.) (free text box)**

- **Are there national quality indicators in your country that are used in clinical audits? (select one answer)**
 - Yes
 - No – but in development
 - No

- **If 'yes', please provide details, including, if appropriate, links to websites etc.) (free text box)**

- **Is there a system of national data collection for clinical audit in your country? (multiple answers can be selected)**
 - Yes – quantitative data collection across multiple medical specialities
 - Yes – quantitative data collection but only in select medical specialities
 - Yes – qualitative data collection may also be included in addition to quantitative data
 - No – no formalised data collection system in place

- **Which types of clinical audit occur in your country? (multiple answers can be selected)**
 - Self-assessment at individual practitioner level
 - Self-assessment at departmental level
 - Hospital/departmental internal clinical audit
 - Collaborative clinical audit using hospital networks
 - Internal clinical audit at departmental/hospital level with external direction from professional bodies
 - External national clinical audit programme
 - No organised clinical audit activity
 - Don't know

- **Is there a national clinical audit manual / guidance in your country?**

For radiology? (select one answer)

 - Yes
 - No - but in development
 - No
 - Don't know

For radiotherapy? (select one answer)

- Yes
- No - but in development
- No
- Don't know

For nuclear medicine? (select one answer)

- Yes
- No - but in development
- No
- Don't know

For interventional radiology? (select one answer)

- Yes
- No - but in development
- No
- Don't know

For cardiology (with particular reference to high dose diagnostic e.g. CT/nuclear medicine and interventional cardiology techniques)? (select one answer)

- Yes
- No - but in development
- No
- Don't know

Please provide a link or reference for any clinical audit manual you are aware of, including specialties not listed above.

- **In your country, which of the following organisations provide / develop good practice guidance / national standards relating to undertaking clinical audit? (multiple answers can be selected)**
 - National professional society
 - Multidisciplinary co-operation involving professional and governmental bodies
 - European/international organisation
 - No available guidance/publications
 - Don't know
 - Other (Please specify)

- **If national good practice guidance on clinical audit is available in your country, what is the emphasis? (Select one answer)**
 - The guidance is directed towards principles and practice of clinical audit at regional/national level
 - The guidance (which may include for example audit templates) is directed at local hospital/practitioner level
 - The guidance has both regional/national and local emphasis
 - Not applicable, no relevant guidance in place

- Don't know

- **In your country which of the following organisations (if any) provide external direction of internal departmental/hospital-based clinical audit activities? (multiple answers can be selected)**
 - National professional society
 - Multidisciplinary co-operation involving professional and governmental bodies
 - European/international organisation
 - There is no organisation providing external direction of clinical audit
 - Don't know
 - Other (Please specify)

- **External direction of internal hospital/departmental clinical audit has been successfully adopted in some countries, with the national professional society externally directing hospitals/departments to allow implementation of a national clinical audit programme. Does such a system exist in your country? (select one answer)**
 - Yes – across multiple medical specialties and involving the relevant national professional society
 - Yes – but not widespread, limited national professional society involvement
 - No – no such system currently in place
 - Don't know

- **Which of the following would be required to either establish or enhance a national clinical audit programme using the national professional society as the hub and providing external direction to hospitals/departments? (multiple answers can be selected)**
 - Prioritisation and resource allocation to clinical audit administration and infrastructure at governmental/regional level
 - Prioritisation and resource allocation to clinical audit administration and infrastructure at national professional society level
 - Prioritisation and resource allocation to clinical audit administration and infrastructure at local hospital/practitioner level
 - Resource allocation and improvement in audit networks and communications between national professional societies and their memberships at local/departmental level
 - Not applicable – resourced and functioning national clinical audit programme in place
 - Other (please comment)

- **Does a system for external clinical audits exist in your country? (select one answer)**
 - Yes
 - No

- **If yes, do the following organisations undertake external clinical audits in your country?**

National professional society (select one answer)

 - Yes

- No
- Don't know

National auditing organisation (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Auditing company (working under licence) (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

European/international organisation (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Other (Please specify)

• **Does the system of external clinical auditing involve the use of peers/relevant healthcare professionals? (select one answer)**

- Yes – relevant healthcare professionals are involved
- No – external auditing occurs, but there is no peer involvement
- Don't know

• **Is training in clinical audit incorporated into national healthcare professional education and training programmes in your country? (select one answer)**

- Yes – widely incorporated
- Yes – for some healthcare professions only (if yes please include the relevant healthcare professions in the text box below)
- No – but in development
- No – no incorporation present or in development
- Don't know

Relevant healthcare professions: (free text box)

• **Is there participation in clinical audit in departments that undertake ionizing imaging procedures outside of radiology/radiotherapy/nuclear medicine departments (e.g., orthopaedic/urology/vascular theatres) in your country? (select one answer)**

- Yes, it is mandatory
- Yes, it is voluntary
- No, it is not required
- Don't know

- **Do private radiology / radiotherapy / nuclear medicine services participate in clinical audits? (select one answer)**

- Yes, it is mandatory
- Yes, on a voluntary basis
- No
- Don't know

- **Is funding made available in your country for supporting clinical audit related activity from the sources below?**

European level (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Not applicable

International level (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Not applicable

Governmental/health ministry (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Not applicable

State funding (i.e., within country) (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Not applicable

Regional health authority (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Not applicable

Industry (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Not applicable

Charitable institution (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

- Not applicable

National professional society (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Not applicable

Health insurance system (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Not applicable

Other professional body (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Not applicable

Other (Please specify)

- **Is funding made available at national level in your country to support the organisation / administration / undertaking of clinical audit related activity?**

At individual/healthcare professional level (e.g., as part of planned activity within the job plan) (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Not applicable

At hospital level (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Not applicable

At national professional society level (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Not applicable

At regional level (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Not applicable

At state level (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Not applicable

To support external clinical auditors (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Not applicable

• **If funding is available for clinical audit activity in your country how is this provided?(multiple answers can be selected)**

- One-off funding for specific projects - Departmental level
- One-off funding for specific projects - Hospital level
- One-off funding for specific projects - Regional / State level
- National society/professional body
- As part of regular departmental funding
- As part of regular hospital funding
- As part of the salary for healthcare professionals
- As part of governmental funding for national societies/professional bodies
- As part of governmental funding for dedicated agencies involved in external audit
- Don't know
- Not applicable (no funding)
- Other (Please specify)

• **Do opportunities exist for patients to input into clinical audit in your country? This could involve for example representation on committees involved in clinical audit practice development, development of guidance, involvement in clinical audit projects directly. (select one answer)**

- Yes – encouraged and formalised at national/hospital level
- Yes – encouraged but not formalised and variable
- No – no active involvement
- Don't know

• **Is patient consent a legal requirement prior to healthcare records access for clinical audits? (select one answer)**

- No – it is not required for clinical audit activity
- Yes – it is a universal requirement
- Yes – but some exceptions (if exceptions exist, please provide examples in the 'other comments box' below)

Please provide any further comments you may have in the text box below (including an explanation if none of the above are applicable).

- **What do you consider to be the current barriers to effective clinical audit in your country (if any)? (multiple answers can be selected)**

- Lack of time
- Low department/hospital priority
- Low national priority
- Insufficient funding at national level
- Insufficient funding at hospital level
- Insufficient funding at individual level
- Insufficient local expertise
- Insufficient national expertise
- Insufficient staffing/personnel
- Don't know
- Not applicable (no barriers exist)
- Other (Please specify)

- **Do incentives for clinical audit activity / participation exist in your country? (multiple answers can be selected)**

- Direct remuneration (individual, hospital, organisation)
- Indirect remuneration (salaries, budgets)
- Exemption from clinical work
- Enhanced hospital accreditation system (traffic lighting, e.g., green/amber/red)
- Improved access to staff/equipment
- Academic recognition, prizes from professional society
- Professional/academic promotion
- Clinical audit participation is mandatory by law and therefore incentives are not necessary
- No incentives exist
- Don't know
- Other (please include additional incentives, or any further comments, in the text box below)

Please add any other incentives or further comments you have (text box)

- **Do mechanisms exist in your country to collect, benchmark and capture the data necessary for effective clinical audit and to measure outcomes?**

At departmental level (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- In development
- Don't know

At hospital level (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- In development

- Don't know

At regional or state level (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- In development
- Don't know

At national level – advisory body (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- In development
- Don't know

At national level – audit body (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- In development
- Don't know

At national level – governmental or ministerial (select one answer)

- Yes
- No
- In development
- Don't know

- **Is healthcare professional participation in clinical audit a requirement for registration to practice in your country? (select one answer)**
 - Yes – required for all healthcare professions
 - Yes – but not required for all healthcare professions
 - No – but in development
 - No – no requirement present or planned

Section 2

- **Is there awareness in your country of the requirement to undertake clinical audit of medical radiological practice mandated within the European Basic Safety Standards Directive?**

At individual/healthcare professional level (select one answer)

- Yes – broad awareness exists
- Yes – but awareness is not widespread
- No
- Don't know

At hospital level (managerial) (select one answer)

- Yes – broad awareness exists
- Yes – but awareness is not widespread
- No
- Don't know

At regional/state official level (select one answer)

- Yes – broad awareness exists
- Yes – but awareness is not widespread
- No
- Don't know

At national professional society/professional body level (select one answer)

- Yes – broad awareness exists
- Yes – but awareness is not widespread
- No
- Don't know

At senior governmental/ministerial level (select one answer)

- Yes – broad awareness exists
- Yes – but awareness is not widespread
- No
- Don't know

- **Is there an established process of hospital/departmental inspection by the relevant national competent authority in your country? (select one answer)**

- Yes – it was well established before the Basic Safety Standards Directive (Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom)
- Yes – it has been established since the Basic Safety Standards Directive (Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom)
- No – it is in development
- No – not in development
- Don't know

- **Does the inspection process include assessment of clinical audit?(select one answer)**

- Yes, limited to audit practice/process
- Yes, including audit outcomes
- No
- Don't know
- Not applicable

- **What effects (if any) has the Basic Safety Standards Directive (Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom) had on related clinical audit activity in your country? (multiple answers can be selected)**

- A system of clinical audit practice and process was established as a result of the Directive
- Process of inspection by radiation protection/enforcement authority introduced to include assessment of clinical audit processes
- Clinical audit guidelines/directives developed/in development
- Clinical audit activity incorporated into national hospital accreditation programmes
- Individual healthcare professional engagement in clinical audit mandated
- Clinical audit findings/recommendations published in peer-reviewed journals/national guidance
- No change, a well-established system of clinical audit was already in place
- There has been introduction of new processes/technologies or changes in practice to improve audit outcomes (for example – the introduction of decision support software to improve justification and supporting audit processes. *Please include examples in the 'other' box below*)
- Don't know
- Other (Please specify)

- **We would be grateful if details could be provided on the following (please include any relevant links):**

Any clinical audit/guidance directives recently published by your national society/other professional bodies/societies, or by relevant national auditing, accreditation/certification, or governmental agencies.

Any national clinical audits recently presented or published, with emphasis on re-audit and any changes implemented as a result of audit findings.

Please also include any further comments you would like to add.

THANK YOU!

You have now completed the QuADRANT Main Survey!

The results of this survey will be presented in a workshop with the European Commission and key players in national clinical audit from across Europe in December 2021. If you included your email address in the Background Information section, we will send you further details about the workshop in due course. If you did not provide an email address, you may email [eu-affairs\[at\]myesr.org](mailto:eu-affairs@myesr.org) to register your interest in attending the workshop.

