

C-VGP.1 Clinical Audit

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – Institute of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

Aim

The aim of this module is to enable candidates to develop a clear overview of the theory and practice of clinical audit as well as its practical application within veterinary practice. They will also demonstrate the ability to implement clinical audit within their practice environment highlighting issues that arise, the actions they take to overcome these issues, as well as reflecting on the future role of audit both in their practice and the veterinary profession as a whole.

Area covered

This module is intended to be an introduction to the theory and practice of clinical audit with a clear emphasis on experiential learning through the actual application of audit within the candidate's practice environment.

Aim of the Module

The aim of this module is to enable students to develop a clear overview of the theory and practice of clinical audit as well as its practical application within veterinary practice.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the module, candidates should be able to:

1. reflect upon the theoretical and operational issues arising from the design and implementation of clinical audit within practice and compare and contrast it with clinical research;
2. undertake a clinical audit, including selecting an appropriate area to audit, forming a clinical audit team and collecting relevant data;
3. critically review the results of a clinical audit and report on the findings;
4. reflect upon developing a culture of continuous change and improvement.

Module Structure

Unit 1: Theory of clinical audit

- What clinical audit actually is
- How it differs from research
- The 'pros' and 'cons' of clinical audit within general veterinary practice
- The skills that are needed to undertake clinical audit.

- How issues with regard to the introduction of clinical audit should be addressed, including:
 - culture
 - communication
 - team working.

Unit 2: Application within practice

- Select appropriate areas for clinical audit within their practice
- Utilise evidence based veterinary medicine (EBVM) in clinical audit
- Apply the clinical audit cycle for planning and implementing clinical audit in veterinary practice
- Critically review audits
- Make real and sustainable change to their practice by the use of clinical audit.

Unit 3: Post-audit application

- Acting on an audit and developing a culture of continuous change and improvement

The module is available online with all applicable resources and readings embedded within the module pages. All of the guidance is available online.

Assessment Strategy

3 x discussion/short reflective essays covering the module content (500 words each) and 1 x clinical audit (2500 words)

PLEASE NOTE: It is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to sufficient appropriate cases where you were the primary decision maker to produce adequate material for the module. This may not be possible with some internship positions. You must also be aware of any limitations of your facilities that may make the accumulation of appropriate cases difficult or impossible.