RCVS Certificate in
Advanced Veterinary Practice

Module Title: Clinical Audit
Module Reference No: C-VPC.1
Category and Value: 10 credits
Notional Study Hours: 100

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 role of audit both in their practice and the veterinary profession as a whole.

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

Learning objectives
Underpinning knowledge:
On completion the candidate must be able to clearly demonstrate their understanding of:

- 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.

Application within practice
On completion the candidate must be able to demonstrate their ability to:

- 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.
Post-audit application

On completion the candidate must be able to demonstrate that they have reflected on:

- How they plan to continue to use clinical audit within their practice
- How they see clinical audit developing within the veterinary profession as a whole
- Whether national audits are desirable and practical
- How the profession can best share data to help set national targets
- How the profession can use clinical audit to learn from each other

Assessment strategy for this module

Module providers are responsible for deciding on assessment strategies and methods, subject to accreditation by RCVS. The following general guidance applies to assessment of this module:

- Assessment will be in accordance with the general requirement for the CertAVP qualification to be benchmarked against the Quality Assurance Agency’s (QAA) “7” level in the national qualifications framework.
- Assessment will support the RCVS requirements for the module to be accessible to candidates from a wide variety of veterinary backgrounds and to focus on the veterinary aims of management and leadership
- Assessment will be aimed at encouraging learning and at measuring progress towards the intended learning outcomes of the module.

The University of Liverpool will assess this module by the following continuous assessment methods:

- Reflection on theoretical and operational issues arising from the design and implementation of clinical audit within practice (1500 words):
  - series of 3 discussions or [short reflective essays for AO candidates] of 500 words each covering the areas of:
    - a. Preparing for an audit;
    - b. implementing an audit;
    - c. acting on an audit and developing a culture of continuous change and improvement

  These will be timed through the module to allow students the opportunity to discuss, reflect and develop their own audit which will be carried out during the module.

The final assessment will be a clinical audit report (3000 words).