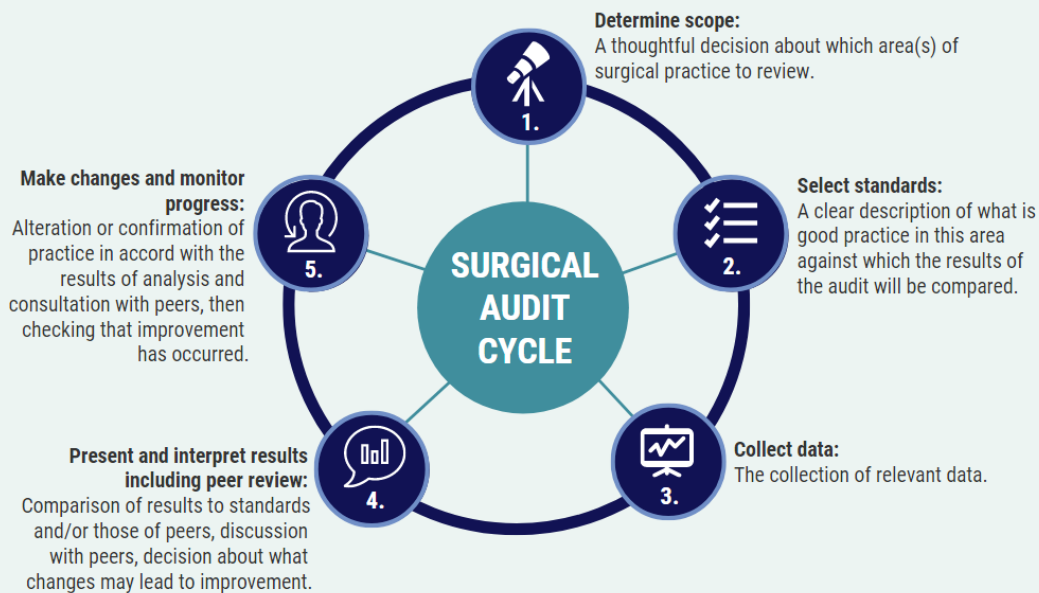


SURGICAL AUDIT

DEFINITION



Surgical audit is a systematic, critical analysis of the quality of surgical care that is reviewed by peers against explicit criteria or recognised standards, and then used to further inform and improve surgical practice with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of care for patients. The purpose of audit is to examine whether what you think is happening really is, and whether current performance meets existing standards.



WHY UNDERTAKE SURGICAL AUDIT

Reasons

- To facilitate clinical incident reporting
- To comply with state and national audit initiatives
- To inform patients about surgical performance outcomes at a department and division level
- To drive continuous quality improvement in surgical care
- To assess surgical performance
- For health care regulation
- To facilitate surgical outcomes research



Benefits

- Sustained reduction in postoperative mortality and complication rates
- Decreased costs of care
- Performance information that guides surgical care and identifies areas for improvement and research
- Reduced variations in clinical practice
- Enhanced community reputation through improved patient outcomes
- More reliable application of evidence based medicine
- Shorter hospital stays
- Greater patient satisfaction