

OVERVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF AUDIT AND FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF PERIPHERAL INTRAVENOUS CATHETER CARE

HEATHER REYNOLDS RN PHD

*ROYAL BRISBANE AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL/THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND;
ALLIANCE FOR VASCULAR ACCESS TEACHING AND RESEARCH (AVATAR), GRIFFITH
UNIVERSITY*



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Background

- Audits of peripheral intravenous (IV) catheter practice worldwide show **improvement** which is **not sustained**.
- Systematic review of audit effectiveness shows **feedback** is a likely complex component of stimulating **behavioural change**.
- Audit recommendations to improve peripheral IV catheter care were reviewed with literature about audit feedback which was effective and resulted in improved performance.



Results

- Example recommendations suggested in audit/point prevalence activities in cancer care (Russell et al, 2014), surgical/medical wards (New et al, 2014) and the operating theatre (Reynolds et al, 2016) all describe practice that is not aligned with guidelines, concurring with other audits worldwide. Need for improvement is recognised, but communication methods for feedback are not detailed.
- Systematic review of effectiveness of audit feedback (Flottorp et al, 2010) reports important categories to facilitate improved outcomes.



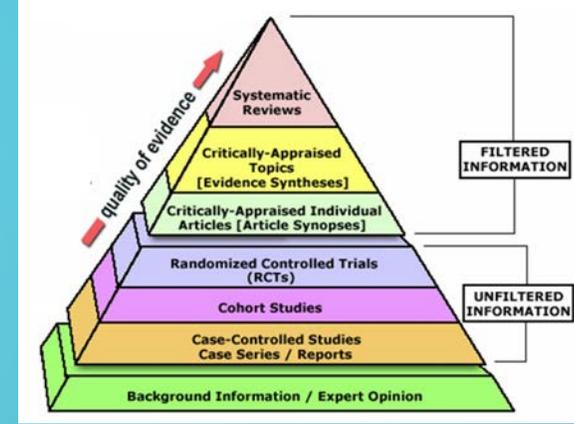
Categories impacting on effective feedback

- **Delivery format**:- multiple forms ie verbal and written;
- **Source**:- senior personnel such as supervisor, senior colleague, investigators, or employer representative;
- **Frequency**:- Multiple time frames: frequent ie up to weekly/moderate ie up to monthly/infrequent ie less than monthly;
- **Duration**:- Multiple durations: prolonged ie one year or more, medium ie between one month and one year, or brief ie month;
- **Content**:- Multiple aspects: patient information/compliance with standards or guidelines/peer comparison/information about costs.



Conclusions

- Audit is a quality activity low on the evidence pyramid, providing a background for research initiatives.
- Evidence supports effective delivery of audit results using multiple formats, by senior personnel, at different frequencies, over different time periods, and comprising multifaceted content.
- Audit results provide important data of care shortfalls in the context of evidence. Effective feedback methods are ideally a component of multiple strategies. Goal directed practice and analysis of the health care environment through effective audit will contribute to improved IV catheter care.



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