

Audit, quality improvement, service evaluation, oh my!

NURS 485 – The Discipline and Profession of Nursing III

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Overview

- What are the differences among clinical audits, service evaluations, quality improvement, and research studies?
- What considerations are needed for each?

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Approach	Goal	Example
Research	Generate new knowledge	Study the effectiveness of a different dosing schedule for pain medication
Quality Improvement	Improve patient care	Implement a new pain assessment tool across surgical departments
Service Evaluation	Assess how well care is working for patients	Ask patients to complete a questionnaire about their pain management after surgery
Clinical Audit	Assess whether care is meeting benchmarks	Compare analgesic prescribing against national guidelines

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Research

- Goal is to **create new knowledge**
- Applies beyond a single setting
- Highest risk
- Most resource and time intensive

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Quality Improvement

- Aim is to **improve practice**
- Don't need ethical approval
- Context specific



Figure 1. Facebook posts week 1.

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Service Evaluation

- How well is care working for patients?
- “Friends and family test”
- Identify strengths and areas for improvement
- Context dependent, within organization

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Clinical Audit

- Compare care to benchmarks, established by evidence
- Antibiotic stewardship
- Context dependent, compare local context with national standards

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Main Messages

- Know which one you are doing!
- Tools may look similar
- Responsibilities for stewardship in each

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Thank you!

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