

Audit, quality improvement, service evaluation, oh my!



NURS 485 – The Discipline and Profession of Nursing III

Jennifer Jackson RN PhD
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Calgary

Fall 2022

Overview

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

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

Research

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

Quality Improvement

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

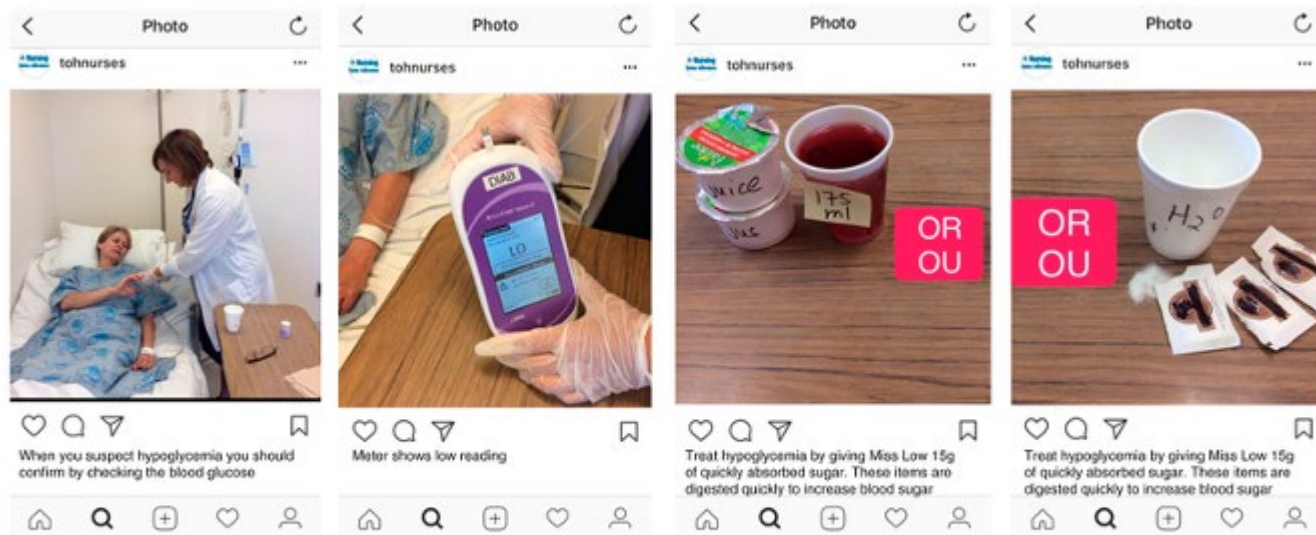


Figure 1. Facebook posts week 1.

Service Evaluation

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

Clinical Audit

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

Main Messages

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



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Thank you!

More info: www.jenniferjacksonrn.org/

Faculty of Nursing, University of Calgary
@JJackson_RN