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89% of Trusts across England and Wales have already registered for the audit

UPDATE ON THE AUDIT...

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Pilot stage

Many thanks to hospitals that participated in the pilot stage of the audit.

Pilots completed an evaluation questionnaire, and feedback pilots suggested necessary amendments to audit tools, standards and timeline. Guidance and support was found to be good or very good but we also received very useful suggestions for further improvement.

These amendments are currently being made, ready for national roll out in 2010, and the start date for the audit has been amended

The new start date for data collection will be 15 March 2010

The pilot audit tools and guidance are available to view on the website.

Register for audit

If you have eligible hospitals in your Trust that have **not yet** registered for the core audit, we will continue to accept new registrations.

Observation module development—see pages 2-3.

The Audit Structure and Modules

THE CORE AUDIT

Will involve all general acute hospitals.

This consists of:

a hospital organisational checklist

Structures, policies, care processes and key staff that impact on service planning and provision for people with dementia

a casenote audit

Records of up to 40 patients with a diagnosis or current history of dementia, audited against a checklist of standards that relate to their admission, assessment, care planning/delivery, and discharge.

THE ENHANCED AUDIT

Will be limited to between 50 and 75 general hospitals.

This consists of:

a ward organisational audit

Concerning staffing, support and governance at a ward level

a ward environmental audit

Aspects of the ward physical environment known to impact on people with dementia

staff questionnaires

Feedback from ward staff about awareness of dementia and about support offered to patients with dementia on their ward

carer/patient questionnaire

Evaluates carers' experience of the support they have received from ward staff and patients' overall perception of the quality of care on the ward

THE OBSERVATION MODULE

A key part of the enhanced audit

This consists of:

an observation of care interactions

A key part of the enhanced audit will be an observation of the culture for person-centred care that is being developed specifically for the acute ward environment. This will help us to obtain the perspectives of patients who may not be able to tell us directly about their experiences for example because they have dementia, delirium or another condition which affects their memory or ability to communicate. We would like to capture examples of excellent care and examples of care which could be better for patients. An aim is to help the staff team reflect on the care provided and to draw up plans to develop care practice.

The research is managed by Rosemary Woolley (a researcher) and Professor John Young (a consultant geriatrician), based in the Academic Unit of Elderly Care and Rehabilitation, part of Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Leeds. The unit has a record of more than 15 years of health services research using multi-method research designs.

Piloting the Observation Module

What will it involve?

We would like to invite you to pilot-test the tool we are developing in two-three hospital wards. We need a sample of hospital wards to cover a range of different ward types (medical, surgical and elderly care), size and patient characteristics. This will help us to ensure that the tool is appropriate for use in a range of hospitals and is acceptable to staff and patients.

Being a pilot site will involve Research Fellow Rosemary Woolley discussing the project further with senior staff, and confirming that your hospital would be happy to take part.

The tool is to be used by one or two members of ward staff or a volunteer in each hospital for a period of a few hours over 1-3 weeks, with full support on how to do this from the research team. The Research Fellow will decide with you on the appropriate person(s) ('local observers') who might use the tool, when piloting would take place, and how this would occur in practice.

During the pilot, the observer(s) will observe in the ward areas, talk to some of the patients and staff involved and look in care plans (hospital staff only).

If you are happy to participate as a pilot study site please return the 'Hospital ward expression of interest' form which can be downloaded from our website:

www.nationalauditofdementia.org.uk

Data Entry

All data will be completed and returned online with the exception of the carer/patient questionnaire and observation modules.

You will receive core audit templates and instructions for identifying patients for casenote audit in **January 2010**, via email. Usernames and passwords which will allow you to access the audit tools online will be sent out to audit leads by March, together with relevant documents (e.g. hard copies of audit tools, guidance, information sheets).

Data Reporting

Core Audit: participants will receive a report with national and site level data in the autumn of 2010.

Enhanced Audit: participants will receive reports with national and (where relevant) site level data for each component of the audit in the autumn of 2010.

National Report: aggregated results of the core and enhanced audits will be presented in an overall National Report in December 2011.

Who the audit will involve

A variety of staff will be required to support the data collection associated with the various component of the audit, as indicated in the table below.

Core Audit	
Organisational Audit	Audit lead, clinical audit departments, junior doctors, clinical governance representative
Casenote Audit	Audit lead, clinical audit departments, junior doctors
Enhanced Audit	
Ward Organisational Audit	Ward sister/ manager or equivalent, audit lead
Environmental Audit	One member of ward staff, i.e. sister, manager or deputy, One representative from Trust Executive Board or Clinical Governance committee One lay person i.e. patient/ carer representative or advocate
Staff Questionnaires	All ward staff including: doctors; nurses; healthcare assistants; consultants; ward clerks; administrators; and any other disciplines with regular input to ward – e.g. liaison psychiatry services; occupational therapy; physiotherapy
Care/ Patient Questionnaires	Ward staff to distribute questionnaires to patients or carers when discharge date is confirmed
Observation (of care interactions)	Two staff members to attend one day training session and to carry out structured observations

New timeline of the audit

Tool	Start date	Deadline for data entry
Core Audit		
Organisational Audit	15 March 2010	14 May 2010
Casenote Audit	22 March 2010	16 July 2010
Enhanced Audit		
Environmental Audit	1 April 2010	11 June 2010
Ward Organisational Audit	1 April 2010	28 May 2010
Carer/ patient questionnaire	1 April 2010	13 August 2010
Staff questionnaire	1 April 2010	16 July 2010
Observation training	From October 2010	N/A
Observation module	From October 2010	February 2011

For more information on the National Audit of Dementia, please visit our website:

www.nationalauditofdementia.org.uk

The bibliography of the audit tools can be downloaded from our website.

Contacting the project team...

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