



West Midlands Education Innovation and Notable Practice

MIDLANDS REGIONAL RHEUMATOLOGY AUDIT PROGRAMME

2010 - 2011



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WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL SERVICES AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Overview:	Annual multi site audit programme including rheumatology units in the East and West Midlands. Producing high quality audit data on aspects of rheumatological care and excellent training for Specialist Registrars in audit methodology.
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Clinical audit is an essential clinical governance tool for improving quality of care and monitoring standards of health care delivery. Multisite audit is particularly powerful as it increases the sample size, highlights areas of good practice and allows benchmarking of units to regional or multiregional norms.

In 2001 the West Midlands Regional services and training committee set up its first multisite audit. This audit looked at compliance with recently published National Osteoporosis Society guidance on prevention and treatment of steroid induced osteoporosis. The audit was run by team consisting of a lead consultant and a small group of specialist registrars. The audit collected data from nine rheumatology units in the West Midlands. The results informed the units of their compliance with the guidance and allowed them to look at areas of variance from guidance. The work led to a peer reviewed publication and national conference presentation.

Using the same model the regional audit has continued to run on an annual basis since that time. Audit topics have looked at new therapeutic interventions particularly if these are associated with a NICE technology appraisal, pathways of care, multidisciplinary care provision and case mix. A number of re-audits have been carried out as part of the cycle. The importance of the audit results has been recognised by an increasing number of rheumatology units and currently 13 units in the West Midlands contribute to the data collection. In 2008 the East Midlands rheumatology audit group joined with the scheme and currently 5 rheumatology units in the East Midlands contribute to the data collection.

All of the 9 completed audits have been published in peer reviewed journals and presented regionally and nationally. The Audit in 2009 was supported by funding from the Healthcare quality improvement partnership (HQIP) after a successful funding application.

The day to day running of the audit, analysis of results and presentations is undertaken by a core group of specialist registrars which are invited to take up this role at the annual ARCPs. The process of organising the audit under the supervision of an established consultant is excellent training in audit methodology, team working and management of deadlines and is highly rated by the specialist registrars.