

A Retrospective Audit of Baseline Measurements Used and Ratings Applied to Audits Completed in 2022 in a Dublin Teaching Hospital

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Background

Clinical Audit plays an important role in continually monitoring the standard of patient care being provided, to improve quality and outcomes. Audits completed in this Dublin Teaching Hospital and submitted to the Clinical Audit Committee are given a rating of green, yellow, orange or red with the colour corresponding to the level of improvement needed in the discussed area when compared with the relevant standard, guideline, policy, benchmark or research and as decided by the Clinical Audit

Definition of Clinical Audit

National Institute of Clinical Excellence:

“A quality improvement process that seeks to improve patient care and outcomes through systemic review of care against explicit criteria and implementation of change”

HSE:

“Clinical and Healthcare Audit involves comparing current practice in the form of standards, identifying areas of improvement and implementing changes to meet the standards”

Method

- Start and Finish Dates:** January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022.
- Chosen Population:** All proformas submitted to the SVUH Clinical Audit.
- Sample Selection:** All submitted proformas were included, with no exclusions, resulting in a sample size of 268 audits.
- Retrospective or Prospective:** Retrospective.
- Tool Used:** A literature review was conducted on PubMed on July 10, gathering papers related to audit standards or guidelines. A form was created on Sphinx, asking about the nature of the standard or guideline, the audit lead, the rating applied, and whether the audit was completed.

Results

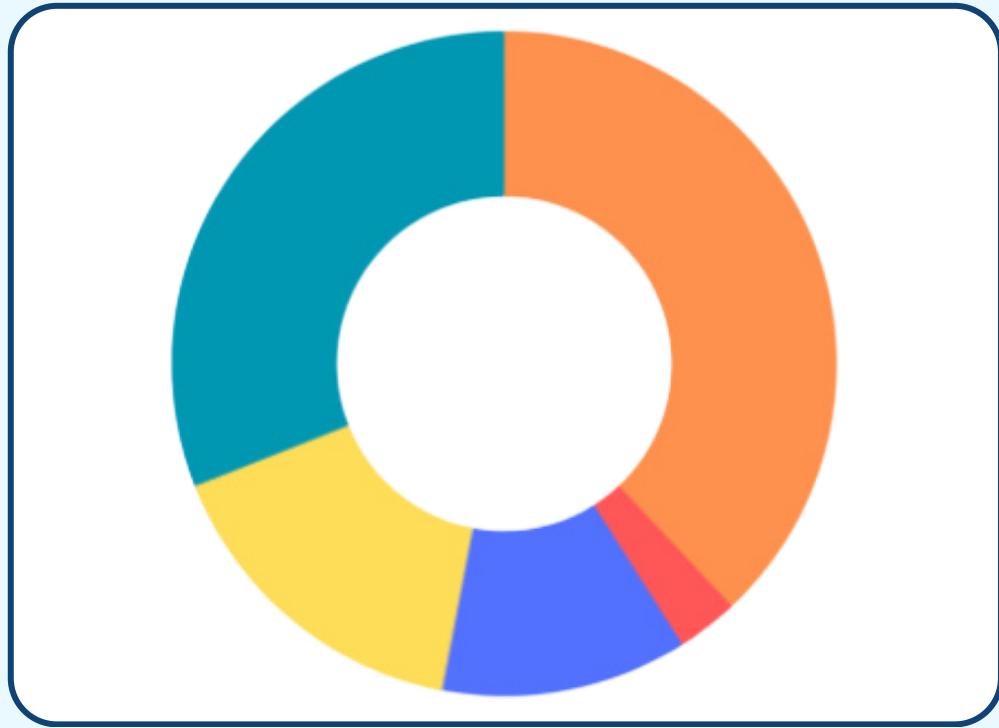
Audit Completion Rates:



123
Completed
Audit Reports

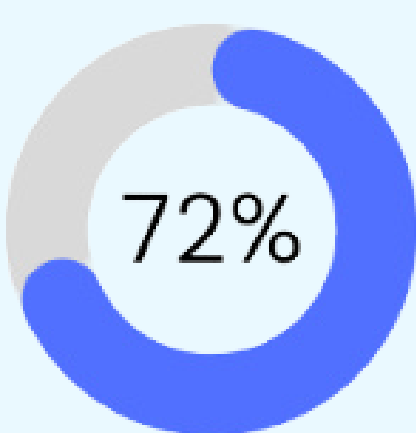
268
Submitted
Performas

Position of Audit Leads:

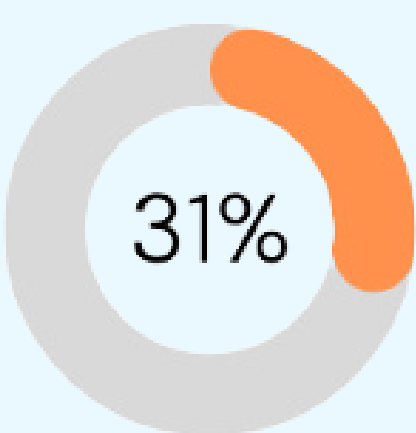


Colour refers to position as below

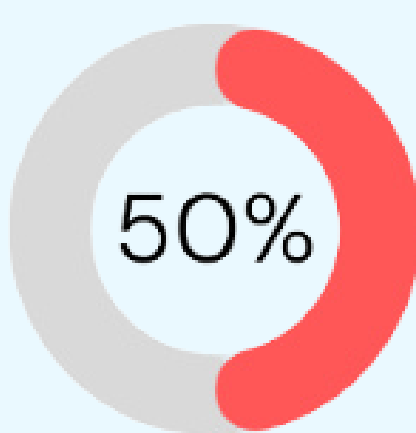
Completion rates by Audit Lead:



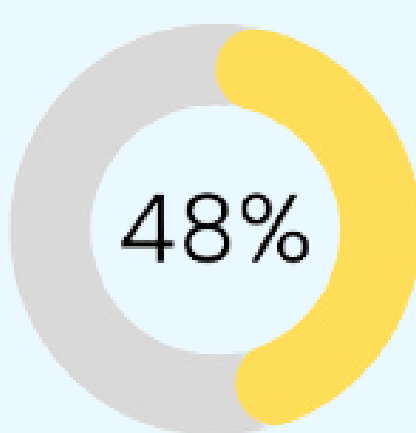
Medical
Students



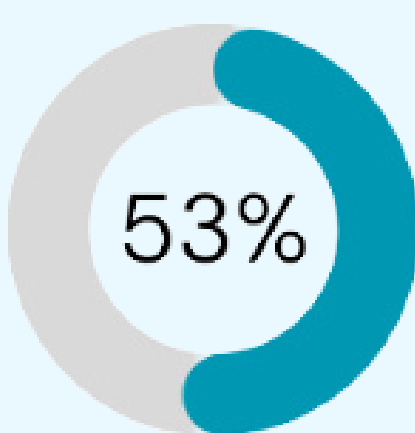
NCHD



Consultants



Nursing

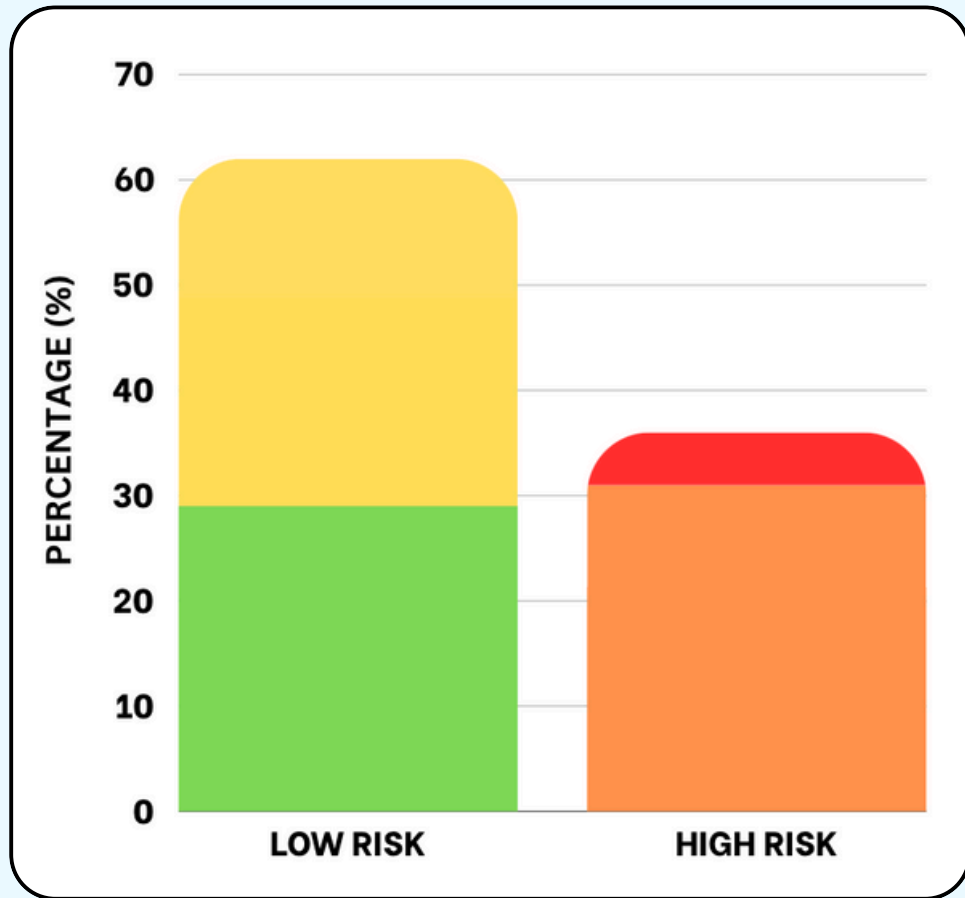
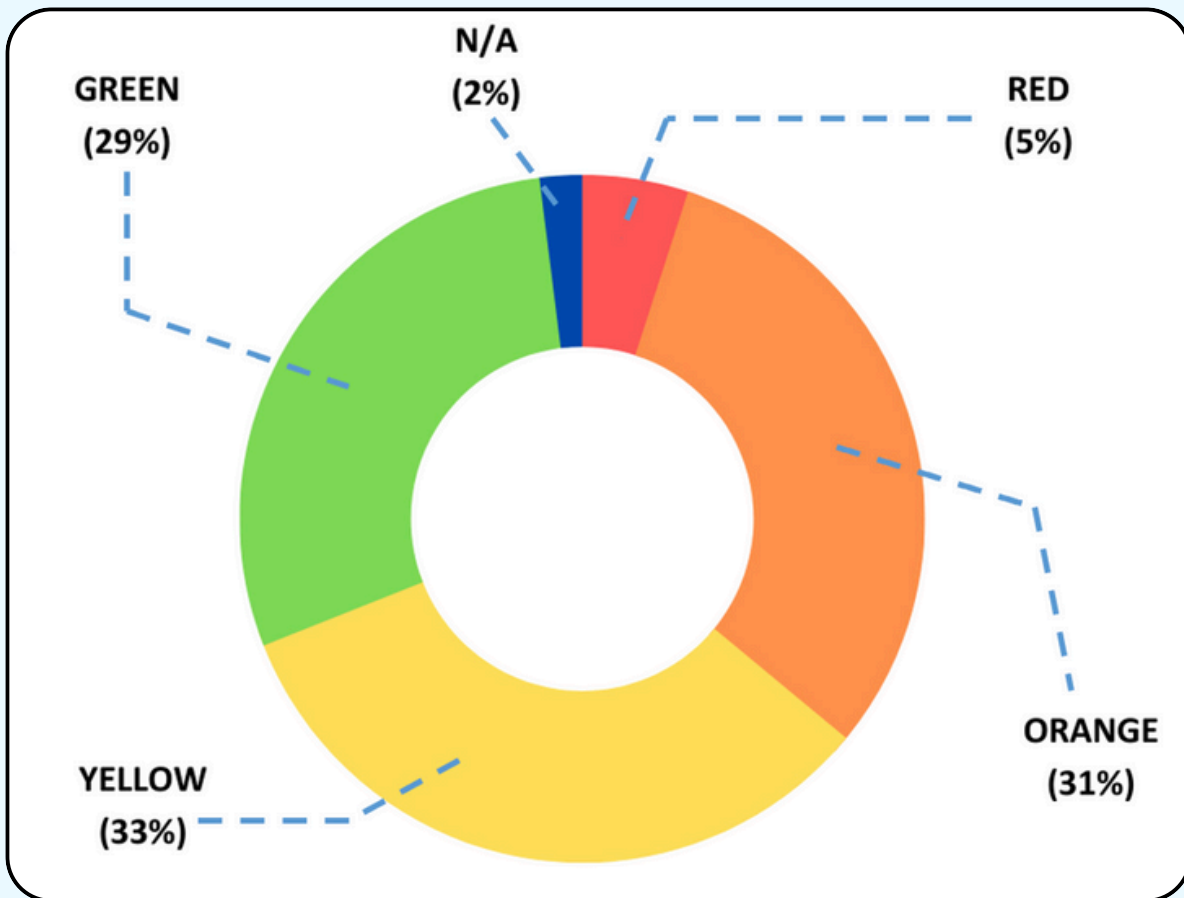


Allied Health

Baseline measurements used



Ratings Applied to Submitted Audits



Discussion

The completion rate of proposed audits was less than 50%. Completion rates varied significantly among different groups, with medical students having the highest completion rate at 72% and NCHDs the lowest at 31%. The audit revealed a preference for using guidelines and standards as benchmarks in proposed and completed audits. While the majority of proposed audits were benchmarked against guidelines, a notable portion did not use any baseline measurement. The rating distribution indicates that a substantial number of audits reported a high level of risk, necessitating significant improvements. Additionally, the completion rate of proposed audits highlighted a need for further investigation, particularly focusing on groups with lower completion rates like NCHDs.

Conclusion

- Guidelines were the most commonly used benchmark, followed by standards.
- 36% of submitted audits received high-risk ratings (red or orange), while 62% received low-risk ratings (yellow or green).
- Less than half of the proposed audits were completed, with significant variability in completion rates across different groups.

Recommendations & Planned Interventions

- Standard and Guideline Inclusion:** Ensure all definitions of clinical audit include standards and guidelines as measurement baselines. (Review Date: Q4 2024, Responsible: QA Team Lead)
- Acknowledge Clinical Staff:** Recognize the willingness of clinical staff to audit areas of concern, promoting a culture of safety. (Review Date: Q3 2024, Responsible: Clinical Audit Committee Chair)
- Investigate Completion Rates:** Conduct further investigations into why over 50% of proposed audits are not completed, focusing on support mechanisms for groups with low completion rates, especially NCHDs. (Review Date: Q2 2024, Responsible: Audit Coordinator)

These interventions aim to improve future audit completion rates and enhance the overall quality and safety of clinical practices.