

LETTERS

IMPROVING ACCESS TO CLINICAL TRIAL RESULTS

Two ways to improve clinical audit's contribution to improving quality of care

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There are two ways that we might improve clinical audit's contribution to improving quality of care.¹ One is to re-establish a central repository of information on the 50-60 national clinical audits in England. A previous attempt (Directory of Clinical Databases) provided not only information on the data available but also an independent assessment of the quality of the data in the national clinical audit.² Unfortunately, after a few successful years the NHS Information Centre decided not to maintain this database, although it is still archived on the web (<http://docdat.ic.nhs.uk/>). There is a current initiative, funded by NHS England and led by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership, to create a new resource during 2014.³

The second approach is along the lines suggested by Smith.⁴ I agree that there are many imaginative and enterprising local quality improvement initiatives. A website that highlighted the best and most successful ones would help their dissemination

and wider uptake. However, it would be essential that such a resource was kept up to date—often a challenge after initial enthusiasm starts to wane.

Competing interests: I chair the National Advisory Group for Clinical Audit and Enquiries that advises NHS England.

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- 2 Black N, Payne M. Directory of clinical databases: improving and promoting their use. *Qual Safe Health Care* 2003;12:348-52.
- 3 Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership. NCA quality assessment. 2014. www.hqip.org.uk/nca-quality-assessment/.
- 4 Smith MD. What about a national clinical audit results database? *BMJ* 2014;348:g1303.

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