




Steering actions by a National Advisory Committee for Clinical Audits (NACA) in Finland

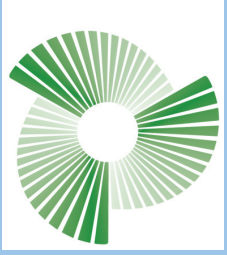
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**National Advisory Committee for Clinical Audits
Finland**

Background



- **The legislation did not specify any particular organization to carry out clinical audits**
 - **More than one approach for the practical implementation was expected.**
 - **National steering was considered important for the quality and consistency of clinical auditing**
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- **In 2004, a national steering group, or a National Advisory Committee for Clinical Audit (NACA), for the development and follow-up of the clinical audits in Finland was established by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.**



A national Advisory Committee for Clinical Audit (NACA)

(clinical experts independent from the auditing organizations)

www.clinicalaudit.net

**Coordination, assessment,
giving advice for
the implementation of clinical audits**

Labquality

**Nordic
Healthcare
Auditing**

**Other organizations
for Clinical Audit**

NACA



- **The NACA is a multi-disciplinary group of clinical experts, independent of any auditing organizations.**

Tasks of the NACA



- **Evaluation of the suitability and coverage of the criteria used in clinical audits for different sub-areas (diagnostic radiology, nuclear medicine and radiotherapy)**
- **Evaluation of the importance of other quality audits in medical practice (such as audits for accreditation)**
- **Giving recommendations for developing clinical audits**
- **Making proposals and promoting the use of special practice-specific criteria in clinical audits**
- **Collecting summaries and review of the results, including analysis of the impact of audits on radiation protection of the patient.**

Main actions by the NACA



- **Four Recommendations issued on website**
- **Comprehensive survey of the outcome of audits (after 25 % and 100 % of the first round completed; 2000-2006)**
- **A seminar organized, introducing the recommendations of the Committee and the summaries and future development of the clinical audits, on point of view of auditing organizations and authorities**
- **Follow-up of international development, lectures and articles**

Recommendations by the NACA



- **Competence, experience and independence of the auditors (Recommendation 1, 2005).**
- **Development of clinical audits: Recommendations for the second audit round (Recommendation 2, 2006)**
- **Taking into consideration of accreditations in the clinical audits of nuclear medicine (NM) units (Recommendation 3, 2006)**
- **Taking into consideration of the ten points of interest given in the Degree (423/2000) in clinical audits (Recommendation 4, 2008).**

Conclusion



- **The coordinating and advisory role of National Advisory Committee on Clinical Audit (NACA) has turned out to be of high importance in ensuring**
 - **the high quality of clinical audits in line with the legal requirements**
 - **consistency of approaches**
 - **avoidance of unnecessary overlapping of clinical audit with other quality assessment activities and regulatory inspections.**

Further information



www.clinicalaudit.net
(so far in Finnish)