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## **SETTING UP CLINICAL AUDIT IN GONDAR HOSPITAL, ETHIOPIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

**Objective:** *To introduce clinical audit into a large hospital in Ethiopia, and whether clinical standards can be improved as a result.*

**Background:** *Clinical audit is a method of checking that patient care is delivered to the highest possible level by health care professionals. Practice is measured against agreed guidelines, and is then adjusted to meet the re-quired standard.*

**Methods:** *Audit was introduced into Gondar University Hospital. All departments took part, including Paediatrics, Obstetrics, Medicine, Surgery, Nursing, and the Laboratory. A Lead Clinician was nominated, and an audit clerk appointed. Hospital staff received training. Topics were chosen according to need, for example: obstructed labour in Obstetrics; management of acute diarrhoea in children; and medical record-keeping.*

**Results:** *20 audits have been commenced – 7 are completed, 11 in progress and 2 are awaiting analysis. Excellent clinical practice has been high-lighted such as treatment of common paediatric emergencies and documentation in patient records. Areas for improvement were discovered, such as glucose-testing on the childrens ward. Adjust-ments will be made to current practice where indicated by audit results, thus improving patient care. Local guide-lines have been written to further ensure adherence to evidence-based clinical care.*

**Conclusion:** *It is possible to set up audit in a busy Ethiopian hospital, and use the results to improve the standard of patient care.*

**Keywords:** *Audit, clinical standards, Ethiopia.*