

FURTHER INFORMATION

Department of Health
www.dh.gov.uk

Clinical Governance Support Group
www.cgsupport.nhs.uk

National Patient Safety Agency
www.npsa.nhs.uk

Clinical Effectiveness and Evaluation Unit
(Royal College of Physicians)
www.rcplondon.ac.uk/college/ceeu

Journals: *Clinical Governance: An International Journal*, *Clinical Governance Bulletin* (RSM Press)

‘encourages clinicians to view clinical governance as a management driven exercise that has exploded their paper work to the detriment of patient care’.

These negative feelings may account for the authors’ finding that, except for audit which has generally been accepted, SpRs are taught less about other areas of clinical governance by their supervisors. It is important that the positive benefits and outcomes of clinical governance are emphasized to SpRs during their training.

External drivers such as National Institute of Excellence, the National Patient Safety Agency and the Healthcare Commission raise the profile of clinical governance and clinicians should be aware of how to use and benefit from these agencies.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE CLINICAL GOVERNANCE TRAINING

The authors recommend that all regional training committees review their speciality teaching programmes and ensure clinical governance is included in SpRs’ formal training days (Table 5). Deaneries should review the content of their courses to ensure that they include teaching of all aspects of clinical governance.

The importance of clinical governance should be promoted throughout all 5 years of training by being made more clinically relevant and orientated. As part of their training SpRs should be encouraged to be attached to clinical managers and clinical governance leads to obtain a better understanding of how clinical governance relates to everyday practice. SpRs’ knowledge and training in clinical governance should be routinely assessed at the Review of In-Training Assessment (RITA) and deficiencies addressed.

In small ways most clinicians are practising a modest amount of clinical governance; they are supervising and assessing junior staff, running journal clubs and grand rounds, dealing with complaints, participating in audit, changing practice and setting up new services. However, as the consultants of the future it is essential that SpRs receive adequate training and experience in clinical governance to enable

them to provide high quality patient care within the modern NHS framework. **HM**

Conflict of interest: none

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KEY POINTS

- Clinical governance is an important tool for improving patient care.
- Clinical governance is part of the generic curriculum for all specialist registrars (SpRs).
- Current clinical governance training concentrates on audit rather than developing safe systems of medical care.
- SpRs’ training in clinical governance is inadequate.
- Clinical governance training should be a relevant and integral part of SpRs’ training.