

3032: A PROTOCOL FOR MEDICAL QUALITY AUDIT AND PEER REVIEW IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND EXPERIENCES OF THE METHOD.

Authors:

Erntell M., Beckman H., Elgefors B., Eriksson B.M., Frydén A., Hallgärde Å., Karlsson M., Vig I., Vikerfors T.

Objective:

Since 1993 the Swedish Society of Infectious Diseases has developed indicators of medical quality in the diagnoses endocarditis, pneumonia, bacterial meningitis, HIV, malaria, the follow up of nosocomial infections and the use of antibiotics. A national quality register for treatment of endocarditis has been established. In collaboration with the Swedish Medical Association we have developed protocols for medical audit and peer review of departments of infectious diseases in Sweden.

Method:

The medical audit group has developed two protocols; one describing structure and process quality data of the department reviewed and one describing the medical quality using the indicators for each diagnosis and for nosocomial infection assessment and antibiotic use.

The department carry out the self-assessment of the medical audit. Two experienced consultants perform the peer review during three days, which includes audit of protocols and medical records, interviews of hospital management staff and colleagues in other departments.

Results:

Thirteen audits using the peer review method have been performed. The chosen indicators of medical quality have been accepted and successively integrated. The register of endocarditis is the largest of its kind including more than 1600 episodes. The experience is that the self-performed medical audit is very interesting and not too time-consuming. The peer review has been very well received.

Conclusions:

The peer review method has given further insights into the medical quality of the reviewed department not detectable just by medical indicators of quality. Audit of medical records is essential for peer review. Some deficits of medical quality can only be detected by study of records and by interviews of external persons. The experience of the medical audit and the following peer review is that the colleagues find it very well suited for quality assurance in clinical practice.