MAP – Guidance for Criterion 2: Quality improvement projects

As with all sections of MAP, it is crucial to read the section in the handbook very carefully, and to think and plan in good time. Your evidence must come from your current revalidation cycle (and be no more then 5 years old at time of submission).

The methods available are:

- Case review or discussion
- Clinical audit (Please note it cannot be an audit which is part of Quality Outcomes Framework or a Local Enhanced Services or Directed Enhanced Services)
- Evaluation of the impact of a health initiative
- Review of clinical outcomes
- Review of the effectiveness of a teaching programme

You should choose only ONE of these methods for this criterion. The handbook has further details on each option including in appendix 1. The RCGP website also provides detailed information on quality improvement.

Clinical audit

The advice is to keep it simple. It is essential that you demonstrate a clear understanding of the difference between criteria and standards. The assessors want evidence that you understand the audit process, and that it is making a difference to patient care, rather than a very complex piece of work. Get a colleague to read it when you’ve finished. Does he / she understand it? If they do, it’s likely the assessors will. If in doubt about audit, seek advice from a local advisor early.

General advice

A checklist to consider in the description of a quality improvement activity could be:

- title of the quality improvement activity
- authorship, to make explicit your role and the extent of your contribution of the work
- why did you choose this topic? This could include a statement of the problem, a brief summary of relevant literature or guidelines, relevant context, and the priority areas for improvement
- methodology – how you went about the project, what information you needed to gather,
- people other then you who were involved, and the process that you decided to adopt in carrying out the project
- baseline data collection, dates of this, and initial analysis
- discussion of findings
- changes put into place by you or your team or the whole organisation, and ways in which these could be maintained.