

observations, monitoring and escalation of care audit tool

This audit tool supports the collection of data for several quality improvement measures: documentation of core physiological observations, monitoring plans, compliance with monitoring plans, and escalation of care. Refer to the quality measures in Appendix B of the implementation guide for more detailed information. It may be necessary to complete only part of this audit tool depending on the frequency of audit against each quality measure. It may be necessary to access patient records for questions 3-7.

AUDIT GUIDELINES

- Only audit patients that require core physiological observations to be measured (as per local policy or monitoring plan). Core physiological observations include the following: respiratory rate, heart rate, blood pressure, temperature, oxygen saturation, level of consciousness.
- A 'set of observations' is one or more of the following recorded against a legible time entry: respiratory rate (RR), heart rate, blood pressure (BP), temperature (temp), oxygen saturation, level of consciousness (LOC).
- Written monitoring plans specify which physiological observations to measure and the frequency of these measurements. Monitoring plans may be patient-specific monitoring plans written in the clinical record or generic monitoring policies that apply to a number of patients.
- Audit every second patient in the clinical area to capture the monitoring practices of different health professionals.
- Remember to check and/or exclude a patient from audit if the patient was absent from a clinical area during the audit time period e.g. off-site.



