

Improving the Outcomes of Foot and Ankle Surgery

Development of an Audit Tool

Understanding the barriers and
enablers to audit cycle participation

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Professional doctorate research



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Why foot and ankle surgery?

- Influence of foot & ankle surgery on QOL ¹
- 1/3 over 65 have foot & ankle pathology ²
- Healthcare & foot and ankle surgical expenditure expected to double to 2050 ³



Systematic, critical analysis of service quality & safety





Why do audit?



Clinical
Governance



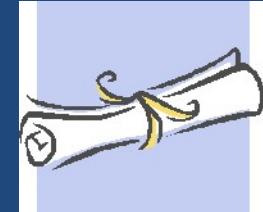
Process
(Resource utilization & efficacy)

Outcome
(Safety & efficiency)

Structure
(Workload & access)



Theory

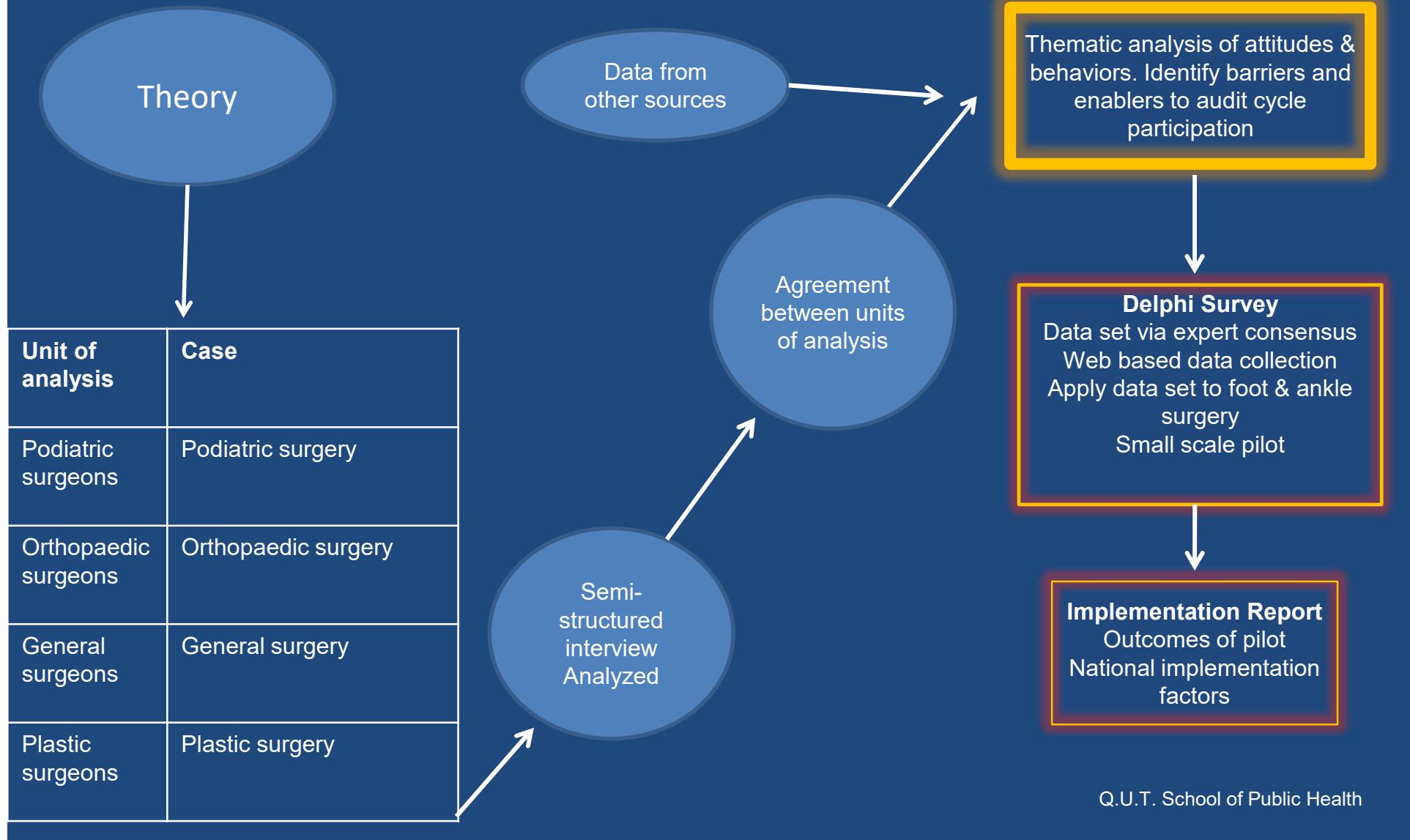


“Surgeon attitudes and behaviours undertaking the audit cycle function as participation enablers and barriers”

Based on:

- Clinical audit enablers and barriers in wide range of NHS disciplines ⁴
- Australian guidelines for audit ⁵
- National survey of audit activity in Australian public hospitals ⁶

Descriptive Embedded Multiple Case Study



Results

Sample represents current surgeon attitudes & behaviors undertaking audit activity in Australia

Specialty	General		Orthopaedic		Plastic		Podiatric	
Surgeon	Senior	Junior	Senior	Junior	Senior	Junior	Senior	Junior
Practice	Public	Private	Private	Public	Public	Public	Private	Private
Years	19	2	16	2	30	1	16	2



- All Australian States & A.C.T.
- 8 males, 34 to 60 yrs age
- 1 to 30 years experience
- 50% private practice





Results



Overview of audit activity

On going data capture, largely retrospective

RACS

- Registrars collect data
- Peer review 1 to 3 monthly
- Peer review report – only plastic surgery

ACPS

- Surgeons collect data
- Peer review meetings annually
- No peer review report

13 Cross case enablers

Enabler	Gen	Ortho	PI	Pod
Safety & quality influenced by audit	X	X	X	X
Protected time	X	X	X	X
Definition of adverse event understood	X	X	X	X
Real time data	X	X	X	X
Regular, structured peer review meetings	X	X	X	
Qualified privilege	X		X	X
Audit induced improved intra-professional communication		X	X	X
Involvement in audit development & administration		X	X	
Surgeons & registrars attend meetings	X	X	X	
Audit used to identify practice change	X	X	X	X
Chaired peer review meetings	X	X	X	
Registrars collect data	X	X	X	
Definition of sentinel event understood	X	X	X	

Summary cross case enablers

- 5 enablers in all 4 cases
- 7 enablers in 3 cases
- 2 enablers in 2 cases
- Plastic(13), orthopaedic(12), general(11) & podiatric(7)
- RACS specialties studied are predominantly public sector. Requires specific evidence for teaching post accreditation
- "*the unit is inspected by the college for accreditation, they would be expecting to look at evidence of all these sort of activities*" PS



5 Enablers found in all cases

Enabler	General	Orthopaedic	Plastic	Podiatric
Safety & quality influenced by audit	X	X	X	X
Protected time	X	X	X	X
Definition of adverse event understood	X	X	X	X
Real time data	X	X	X	X
Audit used to identify practice change	X	X	X	X

Suggests audit tool development should facilitate at least these enablers of participation



Safety and quality is influenced by audit

- " we no ass
 - "A est so
 - "It is a but
- 
- e is board
- ngs , it eon
- OMS

Safety, quality and teaching

"we have a real interest in audit, because we are always trying to increase our quality control....we are pedantic" and "It is helpful for any surgical specialist...Very helpful for surgeons, registrars" OMS

"It is fantastic for trainees to learn because it stimulates them to research things that otherwise could get missed" PS



Regular structured peer review meetings

“There is a lot of discussion on what needs to be done and how things are going” PS

“sometimes it becomes a grand standing affair where people are blowing their own trumpet. That sort of thing is unhealthy but audits where there is frank discussion and people are honest and there is no personal attack I think that sort of culture is very good” PS

“Everyone enjoys it too, when you sit down and do the surgical audit. Everyone knows it’s a learning thing and no one is after anyone’s throat” OMS

Audit induced improved intra-professional communication

“..for our oncology we proved through audit data that certain procedures were much more valuable than other procedures for oral malignancies”

“Also when there is a question of which surgical team should be doing which procedure as well” OMS



Recommendations

Four broad enablers are likely to encourage audit participation

1. Safety & quality management & documentation
2. Training in audit
3. Real time data access
4. Regular structured peer review



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