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*There is a web site with a useful
training package :*

[www.hop.man.ac.uk/academic/
nursingmidwifery1/Online-Training/
Clin-Effect/Clinical-Effectiveness-
home.htm](http://www.hop.man.ac.uk/academic/nursingmidwifery1/Online-Training/Clin-Effect/Clinical-Effectiveness-home.htm)



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*AHP Integrated
Directorate*

**Clinical
Development
Team**

Selecting Audit Samples

Salford Royal Hospitals 
NHS Trust

Salford 
Primary Care Trust

Introduction

Your audit topic will generally focus on a specific area. For most audit topics it is not practical to include every single patient with condition X or who received treatment Y. You will therefore need to select a 'sample' of patients, which can be taken as being representative of your total group.

Collecting Data

Collect data should be in a manageable way i.e. a questionnaire/proforma. The directorate has access to 'Snap' a questionnaire and statistical package to help with this.

What you are going to take a sample from ?

Your population needs to be clearly defined. You might, for example, want to undertake an audit of diabetes. But will this just include insulin dependent cases or will it focus on a certain age group and what is the time period?

We need to take a sample of the total population. If this sample is chosen carefully we can treat it as being 'representative' of that total population.

You might decide to include every 10th patient – lottery method or focus only on patient seen in a certain month. But be aware of bias!

If you do an audit on elderly falls management in Winter, it is likely to produce much different results to an audit conducted in July!

If you are systematically selecting every ninth patient be careful if list is sorted in a particular order you may for example end up selecting all female patients.

If you have a 'population' of 200 patients and you take a sample of 132, you can be 95% confident that the results you obtain from your sample will be within 5% of the results that you would have obtained from your total population.

If, for example, you have a population of 1000 patients, to be 95% confident of obtaining a representative sample, your audit needs to include 278 of those patients.

If, however your colleagues agree that they will act on the basis of an audit of 200 patients, then 200 is sufficient.