

## Editorial

### IS PEER REVIEW NECESSARY IN CLINICAL GOVERNANCE QUALITY ASSURANCE?

Over the decades authors have submitted research articles, case reports, opinion articles, and technical articles. All were peer reviewed by experts in their respective fields to ensure that the content of the articles met specific criteria. There is however a gap in the published articles in terms of peer review in clinical governance. Clinical governance broadly refers to everything that helps to maintain and improve high standards of patient care.<sup>[1]</sup> Clinical audits are part of clinical governance that pertain to quality improvement processes that measure current patient care and outcomes against agreed standards of best practice. In other words the focus of a clinical audit is patient care, management, and outcomes.<sup>[2,3]</sup>

Clinical governance, within the context of imaging, includes quality assurance that involves peer review of images produced. For example, Paul and Stewart<sup>[4]</sup> conducted a pilot study as part of a quality improvement programme that included peer review of a range of magnetic resonance images (MRI) produced by radiographers. Clinical governance is a system that includes several steps to continuously improve the quality of a service. Radiographers are responsible for producing images that should be of a high quality. Peer review is thus important because clinical governance has been part of service delivery in South Africa for more than 20 years.<sup>[1]</sup> The findings of a 2024 South African study by Sithole et al<sup>[5]</sup> underscored that knowledge of clinical governance protocols of all clinical staff, including radiographers, was very low. In view of this gap of knowledge it is hoped that radiographers in clinical practice will embrace peer review in terms of quality assurance and that future issues of the journal will include articles on this subject.

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