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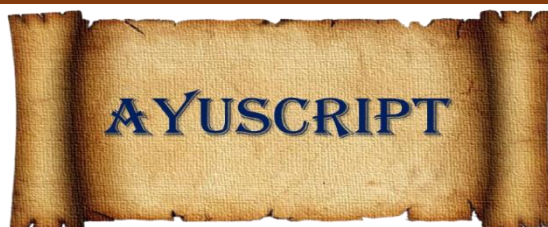
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यन्कल्पेन शरीरं समकल्पयन् ॥१॥ विश्वकर्मोणमाहूय पुरीहाटकानि
 र्मेना ॥ तत्र खोडशसहस्रस्त्रीणामेव च वराधिकम् ॥११॥ भवमानिमनोज्ञानि
 योमध्वे च कल्पयन् ॥ परिजानतर्कवेचनासोभोगाय कल्पयन् ॥१२॥ या
 यानो गृह्णास्तत्र यद्दुपेचाशतकोटयः ॥ अन्यपि बहुवैशोकावसंनिधिगत
 राः ॥१३॥ यन्निर्विद्युत्सुक्तिके सुसुन्दरं च दृश्यते ॥ सर्वाङ्गिनप्रसूनास्यो पु
 त्रयुयस्य विद्युते ॥१४॥ यथापि नीरमासाद्य तन्मनस्कतया च सः ॥ सनाजि
 स्तपस्तेपस्वयं मुदिष्टपुष्टिमाका ॥१५॥ धनं निरसने म्लस्य स्वयं स्वदुक्तव
 तः ॥ प्रसन्नो भयवाच्यनोजितपुरस्थितः ॥१६॥ सनाजिनोपि तु ह्यावदृष्टा देवो
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 त्स्वित्वा सुदृष्टीमां दिवा करी ॥ स्वयं संकथमानो लोदेवदेवो दिवा करः ॥२०॥
 यथासौ भिरसुभरसक विनभवा ॥२१॥ अरं विचयत्रा विचयत्रा विचयत्रा वि





International Journal for Empirical Research in Ayurveda

Clinical Governance and Patient Safety Outcomes in NABH-Accredited Ayurveda Hospitals: A Comprehensive Review of Quality Systems, Risk Frameworks, and Outcome Indicators

Supare S.¹, Supare S.²

1. Assistant Professor, Department of Kayachikitsa, Bhausaheb Mulak Ayurvedic Mahavidyalay, Nandanvan, Nagpur.
2. Professor, Department of Shalyatantra, Dr. Rajendra Gode Ayurved College, Amaravati, MH., India.

ABSTRACT:

Background Clinical governance has emerged as a foundational pillar in modern healthcare systems, ensuring accountability, safety, and continuous improvement. In Ayurveda hospitals, variability in documentation and procedural standardization historically limited measurable quality assessment. NABH accreditation introduced structured frameworks for governance, safety, and monitoring.

Objectives To critically examine the structure of clinical governance systems in NABH-accredited Ayurveda hospitals and analyze their impact on patient safety and outcome indicators.

Methods A comprehensive narrative review methodology was employed. NABH AYUSH standards, infection control guidelines, biomedical waste rules, clinical audit frameworks, and patient safety models were analyzed. Governance principles were mapped to structure–process–outcome domains.

Results NABH implementation strengthens clinical standardization, documentation integrity, infection prevention systems, adverse event monitoring, and continuous quality improvement cycles. These collectively enhance patient safety and institutional credibility.

Conclusion NABH accreditation operationalizes clinical governance within Ayurveda institutions, creating measurable, auditable, and sustainable patient safety systems.

Key words:

Clinical Governance, NABH, Ayurveda, Patient Safety, Panchakarma, Risk Management, Quality Improvement

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR:

Dr. Nayan Supare (Deshmukh)

Assistant Professor, Department of Kayachikitsa, Bhausaheb Mulak Ayurved Mahavidyalay, Nandanvan, Nagpur, MH., India

Email: nayansupare133@gmail.com, Mobile no. 9011153816

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Introduction:

Clinical governance refers to the systematic approach to maintaining and improving quality of patient care within a healthcare system. In Ayurveda hospitals, governance traditionally relied upon physician expertise and institutional reputation. However, contemporary healthcare environments require documented accountability, performance indicators, and measurable safety standards. NABH accreditation bridges this gap by institutionalizing clinical governance mechanisms aligned with international quality paradigms.

Further analytical evaluation indicates that systematic documentation, interdisciplinary committee oversight, and periodic performance review mechanisms significantly contribute to sustainability of governance reforms. The integration of structured quality benchmarks within Ayurveda institutions represents a transition from informal practice models to data-driven healthcare governance. This transformation enhances institutional maturity, strengthens regulatory confidence, and aligns traditional healthcare systems with global patient safety expectations.

From a systems perspective, governance maturity directly correlates with patient trust, procedural consistency, and medico-legal preparedness. By embedding safety checkpoints, audit cycles, and performance indicators, NABH accreditation fosters a culture of accountability and continuous improvement. Such structured governance ensures resilience against operational variability and enhances institutional credibility.

Conceptual Framework of Clinical Governance

Clinical governance integrates leadership accountability, clinical audit, risk management, patient involvement, evidence-based practice, and staff development into a unified quality framework. The structure–process–outcome model provides a theoretical

scaffold for evaluating governance performance in Ayurveda institutions.

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Standard Treatment Guidelines and Clinical Protocols

NABH mandates documented Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) for common disorders managed in Ayurveda hospitals. STGs do not replace individualized care but enhance safety by defining minimum documentation requirements, monitoring parameters, and follow-up systems. Panchakarma therapies, Shalya procedures, and Kayachikitsa protocols are structured within predefined documentation frameworks.

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Panchakarma Safety Architecture

Panchakarma procedures involve preparatory, operative, and post-procedure phases. NABH standards require documentation of vital monitoring, contraindication screening, informed consent, and infection control measures. Sterilization logs, linen audits, and equipment validation systems ensure procedural safety.

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Infection Prevention and Control Systems

Infection control committees, biomedical waste segregation protocols, water quality monitoring, and sterilization audits are central components of NABH compliance. Surveillance registers document infection rates and corrective interventions.

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Documentation Integrity and Medical Record Systems

Medical record standardization supports transparency and medico-legal defensibility. NABH mandates complete case documentation, drug traceability, discharge summaries, and adverse event logs. Digital record integration further enhances traceability and research capacity.

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Risk Management and Adverse Event Reporting

Risk governance frameworks categorize clinical, procedural, pharmaceutical, and administrative risks. Adverse event reporting systems, root cause analysis, and Corrective and Preventive Action (CAPA) cycles institutionalize safety culture.

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improvement. Such structured governance ensures resilience against operational variability and enhances institutional credibility.

Clinical Audit and Performance Indicators

Internal audits evaluate compliance with STGs, infection control norms, documentation completeness, and outcome tracking. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) include patient satisfaction scores, complication rates, readmission frequency, and average length of stay.

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Patient-Centered Care and Ethical Governance

Patient rights charters, grievance redressal systems, confidentiality policies, and informed consent procedures enhance trust and ethical compliance within accredited Ayurveda hospitals.

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Human Resource Competency and Continuing Education

NABH requires credential verification, job descriptions, competency validation, and continuous professional development programs. Structured training strengthens procedural safety and documentation accuracy.

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culture of accountability and continuous improvement. Such structured governance ensures resilience against operational variability and enhances institutional credibility.

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Cycle

CQI operates through iterative audit-feedback-revision loops. Data-driven monitoring allows institutional learning and performance refinement.

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Outcome Evaluation and Global Credibility

Outcome measurement provides empirical visibility to Ayurveda therapeutic effectiveness. Accredited institutions demonstrate improved transparency, enabling participation in research and medical tourism markets.

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Challenges in Implementation

Common challenges include documentation resistance, infrastructure investment, staff training gaps, and resource constraints. Leadership commitment is critical for sustainability.

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variability and enhances institutional credibility.

Policy Implications

Integration of NABH governance frameworks with national health programs and digital health missions may accelerate modernization of AYUSH institutions.

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Future Directions in Ayurveda

Future development may include digital dashboards, standardized PROMs for Panchakarma, and integration of AI-driven quality analytics into accreditation monitoring.

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Discussion:

The present review highlights that implementation of structured clinical governance through NABH accreditation significantly transforms the operational, clinical, and safety frameworks of Ayurveda hospitals. Traditionally, Ayurveda practice has relied heavily on individualized physician expertise and classical textual knowledge; however, the absence of standardized documentation and measurable quality indicators limited its integration into modern healthcare quality systems. The findings of this study demonstrate that NABH accreditation bridges this critical gap by embedding systematic governance mechanisms aligned with global healthcare standards.

A key observation is the alignment of NABH standards with the Donabedian model of structure–process–outcome, which has been widely accepted for quality assessment in healthcare systems. Structured infrastructure (structure), standardized clinical protocols (process), and measurable patient outcomes (outcome) collectively contribute to improved healthcare delivery. Similar findings have been reported in global healthcare settings, where accreditation systems enhance patient safety, reduce variability in care, and improve institutional accountability. The study further emphasizes that Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) in Ayurveda do not restrict individualized treatment but

instead provide a minimum safety and documentation framework. This is particularly important in Panchakarma procedures, where variability in practice can directly influence patient outcomes. Implementation of pre-procedure screening, intra-procedure monitoring, and post-procedure follow-up ensures risk mitigation and enhances therapeutic safety.

Infection prevention and control (IPC) systems emerge as a critical strength of NABH-accredited institutions. Surveillance mechanisms, sterilization protocols, and biomedical waste management significantly reduce healthcare-associated infections. These findings align with WHO recommendations emphasizing IPC as a cornerstone of patient safety in both conventional and traditional medicine systems. Another important dimension is documentation integrity and medical record standardization. Accurate and complete documentation improves medico-legal defensibility, supports clinical audits, and enhances research capabilities. Digital health integration further strengthens traceability and data analytics, enabling evidence generation in Ayurveda. Risk management frameworks, including adverse event reporting and root cause analysis, foster a proactive safety culture. The transition from reactive problem-solving to preventive governance reflects maturity in healthcare systems. Clinical audit systems and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) provide measurable insights into institutional performance. Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) cycles ensure that audit findings translate into actionable improvements, reinforcing a culture of accountability and learning. Despite these advantages, challenges such as resistance to documentation, resource constraints, and training gaps persist. Leadership commitment, capacity building, and digital adoption are essential to sustain governance reforms. Overall, NABH accreditation not only standardizes

Ayurveda healthcare delivery but also enhances its credibility, safety, and global acceptability.

Conclusion:

NABH accreditation operationalizes clinical governance within Ayurveda hospitals, transforming traditional care environments into structured, measurable, and patient-safety-oriented systems. This integration enhances institutional credibility and global acceptance while preserving therapeutic individuality.

Further analytical evaluation indicates that systematic documentation, interdisciplinary committee oversight, and periodic performance review mechanisms significantly contribute to sustainability of governance reforms. The integration of structured quality benchmarks within Ayurveda institutions represents a transition from informal practice models to data-driven healthcare governance. This transformation enhances institutional maturity, strengthens regulatory confidence, and aligns traditional healthcare systems with global patient safety expectations.

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