



Research or Quality Improvement

Research is about creating new knowledge about what works and what doesn't. It provides the foundations for national and/or local agreement about the kind of clinical treatment and care we *should* be providing, i.e. helps to answer the question "**what is best practice?**"

Quality Improvement asks whether we are doing the things we have agreed we *should* be doing or achieving the outcomes we have agreed we should be achieving, i.e. it answers the question "**are we following agreed best practice?**"

To determine whether a project is research or quality improvement, answer the following questions:

1. Will the participants' personal information be used for a purpose other than the purpose for which it was collected?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
2. Does the proposed quality improvement activity pose any risks for patients beyond those of their routine care?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
3. Does the proposed quality improvement activity impose a burden on patients beyond that experienced in their routine care?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
4. Is the proposed quality improvement activity to be conducted by a person who does not normally have access to the patient's records for clinical care or a directly related secondary purpose?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
5. Does the proposed quality improvement activity risk breaching the confidentiality of any individual's personal information, beyond that experienced in the provision of routine care?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
6. Does the proposed quality improvement activity involve any clinically significant departure from the routine clinical care provided to the patients?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
7. Does the proposed quality improvement activity involve randomisation or the use of a control group or a placebo?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
8. Does the proposed quality improvement activity seek to gather information about the patient beyond that collected in routine clinical care?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
9. Does the proposed quality improvement activity potentially infringe the rights, privacy or professional reputation of carers, health care providers or institutions?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
10. Is it intended that the results of the proposed quality improvement activity will be published?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

If the answer to all the questions is "no", your project is regarded as a **quality improvement project or an audit**.

If the answer to any of the questions is "yes" please contact the WACHS Human Research Ethics Committee Executive Officer via email: WACHS.HREC@health.wa.gov.au



Our Values: Community | Compassion | Quality | Integrity | Justice