

Quality Improvement: Data driven systematic approach with the goal of improving specific internal systems, processes, costs, and quality outcomes within an organization.

Evidence Based Practice: Problem solving approach that integrates a systematic search and critical appraisal of the most relevant evidence.

	<i>Quality Improvement Projects</i>	<i>Evidence Based Practice</i>	<i>Research</i>
Key features/ Purpose	Incorporates knowledge to improve work flow processes and systems	Translates knowledge to answer a practice question and provides a foundation for best practices in patient care	Generates knowledge or develops new knowledge through an investigation
Approach	Data Driven	Evidence Driven	Inquiry Driven
Literature Review	One idea selected and tested	Search for best evidence in an exhaustive and systematic approach	Summarizes background and provides further justification, guides methodology
Use of Protocols	Yes	Yes	Yes
Consent	Consent to Treatment (if appropriate)	Consent to Treatment (if appropriate)	Yes
Interventions	Presumed Effective	Presumed Effective	Benefit Unknown
Methods	Include: Rapid Cycle; PDCA; Six Sigma	Include: ACE Star; JHH Nursing EBP model	Qualitative and Quantitative Scientific Method
Risk	None or minimal	None or minimal	None, minimal or high
Dissemination	Usually requires facility permission	Usually requires facility permission	Requires IRB approval and reference to human subjects protection in manuscript
Overlap	Informs EBP; Identifies gaps to support research	Informs QI. Identifies gaps in evidence to support research	Informs EBP and QI.
IRB	No	No	Yes

A scientific process that validates and refines existing knowledge and generates new knowledge.

Approved 10/2018

Adapted from:

Idzik, S., Rouen, P., & Udilis, A. (n.d.). To IRB or not to IRB? That is the question! Retrieved from http://family.snhu.edu/Offices/COCE/IRB/Forms2/To_IRB_Or_Not_to_IRB.pdf

Quality Improvement or Research?

Are any of the following TRUE?

- The activity has objectives other than introducing an improvement in safety or care that will be sustained over time (e.g., study will compare outcomes without a clear intent to implement the superior intervention);
- The activity involves a randomized intervention, or the activity involves an intervention that poses risks greater than those presented by routine clinical care.
- The investigator or team member will access identifiable clinical records in connection with this project.

If any of these are yes: submit to IRB