

CU NURSING APPROVAL OF QUALITY IMPROVEMENT, PROGRAM EVALUATION, OR EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE ACTIVITIES

	RESEARCH	QUALITY IMPROVEMENT	PROGRAM EVALUATION	EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE	NOTES
FUNDING	<input type="checkbox"/> Funded by a research grant, award, or contract. If a study is funded as research, <i>all</i> activities using the funds are automatically “research.” Also may be unfunded.	<input type="checkbox"/> Typically unfunded, but may be funded by awards specifically for quality improvement, or directly funded by organizations. If funded, confirm IRB requirements, if any, with the funder.	<input type="checkbox"/> Often funded by a grant, award, or contract for the purpose of developing or improving a service program. If funding requires an evaluation, ask funder whether this is research. Also may be unfunded.	<input type="checkbox"/> Typically unfunded, but may be supported by funds from a hospital or other organization.	
INTENT	<input type="checkbox"/> To develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.	<input type="checkbox"/> To improve a specific clinical practice, which may include improving the quality and/or consistency of care in a specific unit or an entire organization.	<input type="checkbox"/> To evaluate the effectiveness of a specific program in meeting the intended goals of the program.	<input type="checkbox"/> To apply the synthesis of existing evidence to a clinical decision, development or revision of a policy, or practice change in an organization.	
DESIGN	The methodologies for conducting research, quality improvement, program evaluation and evidence-based practice projects are similar and are all systematic. Differential aspects are provided below as a guideline only.				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually hypothesis-driven • Usually statistically rigorous • Sometimes multi-site 	<input type="checkbox"/> Quality improvement is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often designed as part of a cyclical improvement program (CQI, PDSA) • Often tested graphically (IHI charts) • Sometimes hypothesis-driven • Rarely multi-site 	<input type="checkbox"/> Program evaluation is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes hypothesis-driven • Often statistically rigorous • Sometimes multi-site 	<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence-based practice (EBP) integrates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • best evidence (research and non-research) • clinical expertise • patient values, experiences, preferences. 	
COMPARISON GROUP	<input type="checkbox"/> May use placebo or random assignment to conditions	<input type="checkbox"/> May compare pre-post changes or cross-provider variations in care; never involves random assignment	<input type="checkbox"/> May compare variations in programs or pre-post changes in care; never involves random assignment	<input type="checkbox"/> Takes perspectives of all stakeholders into account to improve patient outcomes and provide quality care.	
STANDARD PRACTICE	<input type="checkbox"/> May involve significant deviation from usual care or standard practice; may involve investigational drugs/devices.	<input type="checkbox"/> Usually tests incremental changes to usual care or standard practice; never involves investigational drugs/devices.	<input type="checkbox"/> May involve some deviation from usual care or standard practice; never involves investigational drugs/devices.	<input type="checkbox"/> Focus on shared decision-making among patient, family, and providers; may evaluate existing variations in care.	
PUBLICATION	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear intent to publish results as research (e.g., in a scientific journal, research poster/abstract, or other research/scientific forum). Publishing is presumed as part of professional, scholarly obligations and expectations.	<input type="checkbox"/> Project results will be disseminated internally (e.g. within the organization) soon after completion to inform business decisions and operations. If methodology or results are interesting, also may be published. Publication must note that the project was	<input type="checkbox"/> Intent to publish or present results generally presumed at the outset of the project. Evaluation results will be provided to the program owner and stakeholders, and to the funder. Publication must note that the project was carried	<input type="checkbox"/> Project results will be disseminated internally (e.g. within the organization) soon after completion to inform care. If results are interesting, also may be published. Publication must note that the project was carried out as EBP, and may not describe it as research.	

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		carried out as QI, and may not describe it as research.	out as evaluation, and may not describe it as research.		
MANDATE or ENDORSEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> Activities conducted to fulfill academic obligations to conduct and publish research, to complete a research project as a graduation requirement, or as defined by a funding award.	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity is endorsed or mandated by the organization as part of its operations. Project may be mandated by educational requirements (e.g., requirement to design and complete a QI project).	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity endorsed or mandated by the program owner and/or funder.	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity endorsed or mandated by the institution or clinic as part of its operations. Project may be mandated by educational requirements (e.g., requirement to design and complete an EBP project).	
IMPACT	<input type="checkbox"/> Findings of the study are not expected to directly affect institutional or programmatic practice	<input type="checkbox"/> Findings of the project are expected to immediately and directly improve an institutional practice	<input type="checkbox"/> Findings of the evaluation are expected to immediately and directly demonstrate the success and/or shortcomings of the program.	<input type="checkbox"/> Findings of the project are expected to immediately and directly improve clinical and institutional practice.	
POPULATION	<input type="checkbox"/> Carefully defined through individual inclusion and exclusion criteria in the research protocol. Participation is voluntary and generally requires an opt-in consent.	<input type="checkbox"/> Generally includes all members of a particular group in which improvements are being implemented (e.g., all patients or providers in a specific practice). Participation in QI is generally part of the process of receiving care, but patients might be able to opt out.	<input type="checkbox"/> Generally includes all stakeholders of the program being evaluated (e.g., program clients, staff, and leaders). Participation in the evaluation may be voluntary for some but mandatory for others. Evaluation is generally part of the basic operations of the program.	<input type="checkbox"/> Seeks representative input from all stakeholders in the setting where policy or practice changes are being considered (e.g. all patients or providers in a particular setting). The goal is for the new policy or practice change based on current evidence to be implemented in that setting.	
BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS	<input type="checkbox"/> Primary benefit is from the scientific knowledge gained. Individual participants may or may not benefit directly. Benefits to others (e.g., future patients, society) are not generally immediate	<input type="checkbox"/> Participants expected to benefit directly from the QI intervention.	<input type="checkbox"/> Program clients are expected to benefit from participation in the program. Participants will not benefit directly from the evaluation of the program, which concentrates on program improvements or whether the program should continue.	<input type="checkbox"/> Participants expected to benefit directly from the EBP policy or practice change.	

Project Title: _____

Student: _____ **Faculty Advisor:** _____

Date Reviewed: _____ **QI** **Program Evaluation** **EBP** **Research**

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Bridge Committee Approval: I certify that this project is quality improvement, program evaluation, or evidence-based practice, and is not generalizable research. The student has agreed not to describe the project as “research” or as “generalizable” in any publications or presentations resulting from this project.
