

	HSR	Quality Improvement	Program Evaluation
Intent	A systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to contribute to generalizable knowledge . If the data will be used to draw conclusions related to a larger entity then the activity is research.	Improve a practice or process within a particular institution or ensure it conforms to expected norms.	Evaluate a specific program , only to provide information for and about that program.
Motivation	Individual professional goals and requirements (seeking tenure; obtaining grants; completing a thesis or dissertation)	Project occurs regardless of whether individuals(s) conducting it may benefit professionally from conducting the project.	Project not initiated by evaluator and occurs regardless of whether individual(s) conducting it may benefit professionally from conducting the project.
Design	Designed to develop or contribute to the scientific storehouse of knowledge; may involve randomization of individuals to different treatments or processes; novel research ideas or experimental activities that are not yet known to be efficacious	Not designed to contribute to generalizable knowledge; generally does not involve randomization to different practices or processes	Not designed to contribute to generalizable knowledge; does not involve randomization of individuals, but may involve comparison of variations in programs
Mandate	Not mandated by institution or program	Activity mandated by the institution or clinic as part of its operations.	Activity mandated by the program, usually its funder, as a part of its operations.
Effect on Program or Practice Evaluated	Findings of the study are not expected to directly or immediately affect institutional or programmatic practice; although they may be used for this purpose	Findings of the study are expected to directly affect institutional practice and identify corrective action(s) needed.	Findings of the evaluation are expected to directly affect the conduct of the program and identify improvements.
Subject Population	Living individuals about whom an investigator conducting research obtains (1) data through intervention or interaction, or (2) identifiable private data. May involve a subset of individuals; universal participation of an entire population (clinic, program, or dept) is uncommon	Information on all or most receiving a particular treatment or undergoing a particular practice or process expected to be included; exclusion of information from some individuals significantly affects conclusions	Information on participants receiving a particular treatment or undergoing a particular practice or process expected to be used; exclusion of information from some individuals significantly affects conclusions.
Benefits	Participants may or may not benefit directly – benefit, if any, to individuals is likely to be incidental or delayed	Participants expected to benefit directly from the activities	No benefit to participants expected; evaluation concentrates on program improvements or whether the program should continue
Dissemination of Results	Intent to publish or present generally presumed at the outset as part of professional expectations or obligations; dissemination of information usually occurs in research/scientific publications, grant proposals, or other scientific forum; results expected to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge by filling a gap in scientific knowledge or supporting, refining, or refuting results from other research studies. Results of the project will be disseminated outside the institution for the purpose of sharing the outcomes or implications of the <i>project</i> , not just the <i>process</i> .	Intent to publish or present generally not presumed at the outset of the project; dissemination of information often does not occur beyond the institution evaluated; dissemination may occur in quality improvement publications; when published or presented to a wider audience, the intent is to suggest potentially effective models, strategies, assessment tools or provide benchmarks or base rates rather than to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.	Intent to publish or present generally not presumed at the outset of the project; dissemination of information to program stakeholders and participants; may be publicly posted to ensure transparency of results; when published or presented to a wider audience, the intent is to suggest potentially effective models, strategies, assessment tools or provide benchmarks or base rates rather than to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.