

Research or Quality Improvement?

	<i>Research</i>	<i>Quality Improvement</i>
Purpose	To test formal hypothesis, discover new knowledge	To gather data in order to assess an internal process or system for purposes of improvement
Benefits	Knowledge sought may not benefit subjects involved in study	Knowledge sought directly benefits process, program, or system and may benefit patients
Data	Gather as much as possible to account for unpredictable results	Gather just enough to recognize change
Testing/analysis	Project designed to determine the validity of hypothesis	Project designed with multiple observable, sequential tests or interventions
Duration	Can take a long time, and altering study parameters is undesirable since it may undermine study outcomes	Conducted in short predictable periods with frequent adjustments to obtain predetermined results
Intended result	Disseminate findings with individuals both associated and not associated with the investigation. Publish results to advance science or discipline	Disseminate findings with only those associated with the process, program, or system. Publish results to benefit those with stake in process, program, or system