

## Differences between QI and research

The table below compares QI and research.

| QI   | Research  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improves performance or processes to strengthen patient care.</li> <li>▪ Findings used for internal improvement.</li> <li>▪ Implementation of established evidence-based standards.</li> <li>▪ Implementation will result in direct benefit.</li> <li>▪ Follows the <i>plan, do, study, act</i> cycle.</li> <li>▪ Usually involves all or most people participating in the process.</li> <li>▪ HIPAA covers the use of protected health information for QI purposes.</li> <li>▪ May make changes during the process based upon preliminary data.</li> <li>▪ The hospital agrees that it is a QI project. Project is not a risk or burden to patients.</li> <li>▪ The results are not initially intended to be published; may be published as a quality project. *</li> <li>▪ Not funded by an external research grant.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Answers a question or hypothesis to advance general knowledge.</li> <li>▪ Findings contribute to generalized knowledge outside of the hospital.</li> <li>▪ Investigates untested methods or standards.</li> <li>▪ Subjects may not directly benefit from knowledge gained.</li> <li>▪ Follows a research design (e.g. randomization).</li> <li>▪ Involves a subset of the population with inclusion and exclusion criteria.</li> <li>▪ Must get written consent from patients and identify how health information will be protected.</li> <li>▪ No deviation from set protocol. Data is usually not analyzed until completion.</li> <li>▪ Approval from the hospital <i>and</i> the institutional review board (IRB) needed.</li> <li>▪ Results are expected to be published and presented outside the hospital.</li> <li>▪ External funding may be sought.</li> </ul> |