

### Characteristics of Research and Quality Improvement

	Research	Quality Improvement
<b>Definition</b>	Systematic, hypothesis driven investigation designed to contribute to generalizable knowledge using disciplined scientific methods (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2009).	Systematic data guided activities designed to bring about immediate improvements in a particular setting for a distinct population (Lynn et al., 2007).
<b>Intent</b>	Discovery of new, generalizable knowledge; hypothesis driven	Identifies a gap in performance; applies proven/evidence-based practices to a specific problem (informed by research)
<b>Design</b>	Scientific methods, theoretical framework; statistical methods to compare or correlate differences	QI methods such as PDSA (Plan – Do – Study – Act); statistical methods to evaluate change over time
<b>Setting</b>	Single or multiple settings	Single setting and specific situation
<b>Benefit:</b>	Greater scientific community, generalizable	Direct benefit to participants
<b>Outcome Measures</b>	Statistically appropriate analysis	Clinical significance is the goal (statistical significance is not as important)
<b>Generalizable</b>	Yes	No
<b>Oversight</b>	IRB and Institution	Institution
<b>Subject Risk</b>	Varies, risk-to-benefit ratio considered	None or minimal
<b>Informed Consent</b>	Yes, in most cases	No
<b>Dissemination</b>	Publications and presentations	Publications and presentations to describe lessons learned; lessons learned inform research