

	RESEARCH	QUALITY IMPROVEMENT	PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT
<b>INTENT</b>	Intent of project is to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge (e.g. testing hypothesis)	Intent of project is to improve a practice or process within a particular instruction or ensure it conforms to expected norms.	Intent of project is to improve a <i>specific</i> program.
<b>MOTIVATION FOR PROJECT</b>	Project occurs in large part as a result of individual professional goals and requirements (e.g. seeking tenure; obtaining grants.	Project occurs regardless of whether individual(s) conducting it may benefit professionally from conducting the project.	Project not initiated by the evaluator and occurs regardless of whether individual(s) conducting it may benefit professionally from conducting the project.
<b>MANDATE</b>	Activities not mandated by the institution or program.	Activity mandated by the institution or clinic as part of its operations.	Activity mandated by the program, usually its funder, as part of its operations.
<b>DESIGN</b>	Designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge; may involve randomization of individuals to different treatments, regimens, or processes.	Not designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge; generally does not involve randomization to different practices or processes.	Not designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge; does not involve randomization of individuals, but may involve comparison of variations in programs.
<b>EFFECT ON PROGRAM OR PRACTICE EVALUATED</b>	Findings of the study are not expected to directly affect institutional or programmatic practice.	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.
<b>POPULATION</b>	Usually involves a subset of individuals – universal participation of an entire clinic, program, or department is not expected; generally, statistical justification for sample size used to ensure endpoints can be met.	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 all or most participants within or affected by receiving a particular treatment or undergoing a particular practice or process expected to be used; exclusion of information from some individuals significantly affects conclusions.
<b>BENEFITS</b>	Participants may or may not benefit directly – benefit, if any, to individuals 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.
<b>DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS</b>	Intent to publish or present generally presumed at the outset of project as part of the professional expectations, obligations; dissemination of information usually occurs in research/scientific publications or other research/scientific publications or forums; 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.	Intent to publish or present generally <i>not</i> presumed at the outset of project; dissemination of information often does not occur beyond the institution evaluated; dissemination of information may occur in quality improvement publications/forums; 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 presumed at the outset of project; dissemination of information to program stakeholders and participants; may be publicly posted (e.g. website) 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.
<b>USE OF PLACEBO</b>	Use of a placebo may be planned	Comparison of standard treatments, practices, techniques, processes – placebo would NOT be used.	NA
<b>DEVIATION FROM STANDARD PRACTICE</b>	May involve significant deviation from standard of practice.	Unlikely to involve significant deviation from standard practice.	NA

Taken March 2012 from UW Website and modified April 2012