	Research	Service evaluation	Clinical audit	Satisfaction survey	Practice review
Objective	To answer a question or test a hypothesis	To improve performance	To improve performance	To improve performance	To improve performance
Aim	To test a hypothesis	Systematic collection and	A quality improvement	The systematic collection of	Systematic assessment of
Hypothesis	or	analysis of information	process that seeks to	data from a sample of	current practice without
	establish clinical practice	about a specific program or	improve patient care	patients or staff to	comparison against a set of
	standards where none are	intervention in order to	through systematic review	determine levels of	
	accepted	allow its critical appraisal	of care against explicit	satisfaction or knowledge	
			standards and the	about a service.	
			implementation of changes		
			in practice if required		
Risk to	May place research	Does not increase risk to patients above routine standard care			
participants	participants at risk and they				
	must be fully informed				
Methodology	Designed to inform new	Designed to evaluate	Designed to produce		
	clinical treatments /	current care	information to inform		
	pathways		delivery of best practice		
	Or compare current		Measured against a		
			standard		
	Or compare existing vs new				
New vs existing	Usually involves collection	Analysis of existing data	Analysis of existing data		
data/information	of new data additional to	collected for routine	collected for routine		
	that collected during routine	standard clinical care	standard clinical care		
	standard care				
		May involve use of	May involve use of		
		interview or questionnaire	interview or questionnaire		
Groups of	May involve	Does not involve randomisation of patients			
participants	 randomisation of 				
	participants into groups	The difference in care is related to choice of treatment by the MP or patient			
	Use of a control group				
	 Use of a placebo 				

Type of Activity	Examples
Research	 Clinical Trial of unapproved medicine, device or biological Collection and analysis of tissue additional to standard care
Service evaluation	
Clinical audit	
Satisfaction survey	
Practice Review	