

Research, Clinical Audit and Service Evaluation



RESEARCH

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Designed to derive generalisable new knowledge

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Designed to test a hypothesis

Addresses clearly defined questions, aims and objectives

Study design may involve allocating patients to intervention groups

Normally required Research Ethics Committee Review



AUDIT

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Designed and conducted to produce information to inform delivery of best care

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Designed to answer 'does this service reach a pre-determined standard'?

Measures against a standard

No allocation to intervention

Does not typically require Research Ethics Committee Review



EVALUATION

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Designed and conducted solely to define or judge current care

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Designed to answer the question 'what standard does this service achieve'?

Measures without reference to a standard

No allocation to intervention

Does not require Research Ethics Committee Review

