QI METHODS

What tools are available? How do they work and when should you use them?

1 RESEARCH

- Typically proves or disproves a hypothesis
- Creates new knowledge on best care
- Usually involves the collection of additional data
- May involve allocating patients to intervention groups.

2 CLINICAL AUDIT

- Cyclical process measuring current care against standards
- Should be used to improve care
- Can be used for assurance purposes
- Asks 'are we doing what we should be doing'?

3 SERVICE EVALUATION

- Designed and conducted to judge current care
- Does not measure care against a standard
- Asks 'what standard does this service achieve
- Usually collects data gained from surveys or questionnaires

4 PDSA/MfI

- Aims to improve care patient
- Tests the impact of changes
- Rapid cycle process
- MfI asks 3 questions focused on proving we have delivered an improvement

5 RCA

- Focuses on individual safety incidents
- Asks 'what was the root cause'?
- Adopts a toolbox of different measures
- Aims to identify improvements to stop recurrence of failing

Clinical Audit SUPPORT CENTRE