

QUALITY ASSURANCE AWARDS AND CONTINUING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Definition

Quality assurance is a test of whether things are being done as well as they could/should be. It compares current practice with current standards / best practices. It does not consider a completely new treatment, but tests the adherence to a treatment that is considered to be best practice.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Five awards will be given each year to recognize the best work done in quality assurance projects (see Appendix for definition).
2. Each award will be \$1,000. The Selection Committee will meet in June of each year.
3. The Selection Committee will be composed of:
 - Assistant Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education
 - Program Director
 - Resident Representative
 - Representative from either St Joseph's HealthCare or Hamilton Health Sciences
4. Each program director may submit up to **TWO** nominations to the Assistant Dean of Postgraduate Medical Education. The nomination should summarize the work done and provide sufficient detail to describe the purpose of the project, methodology used, results obtained and a discussion on the impact of this work. The submission must include a completed abstract or paper in publishable format. When work is done with a supervisor, it is important to describe the initiative shown by the resident and the proportion of the work done by the resident. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION TO THE POSTGRAD OFFICE IS MAY 31.**
5. Supervisor and Program Director to submit covering letter describing amount of work done and seniority of resident(s).
6. An award may be given to an individual or to a group of any size who worked jointly on a project.
7. All nominees must be registered as **Residents** with the Postgraduate Education Office.

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APPENDIX

The Difference between Quality Assurance and Research

Research asks the question “*What...?*”

Quality Assurance asks the question “*How are we doing?*”

Quality Assurance and **Research** have much in common; they share a rigorous approach to methodology in terms of design, procedure, analysis and interpretation of data.

However there are a number of major differences:

Quality Assurance	Research
Quality assurance is a systematic approach to review of practices and procedures in order to identify possible improvements and to provide a mechanism for bringing them about.	Research is a systematic investigation which aims to increase the sum of knowledge. It usually involves the testing of a hypothesis or theory.
Quality assurance raises questions that might be answered by further research	Research generates the knowledge that may be tested in Quality assurance.
Quality assurance is a test of whether things are being done as well as they could/should be. It compares current practice with current standards / best practices.	Research is the act of finding the correct thing to do and identifying the most effective form of intervention. Research may help determine what is or might be best practice.
Quality assurance does not consider a completely new treatment, but tests the adherence to a treatment that is considered to be best practice	Research may involve a completely new treatment and usually investigates an area where there is no knowledge of the best practice
Quality assurance results are “local” to the participant population/location/time	Research results can be generalized across a wide population
Quality assurance results are generally for “internal” information	Research results are generally for “external” information
Quality assurance requires the participation of site specific people and departments. The data relates only to the specific site or area	Research requires the participation of patients, and others outside of the specific site or area, so that a representative sample can be obtained and the results generalized
Quality assurance is a continuous and on-going process which includes a follow up after a period of time	Research often will have a defined “end-point” which is researched when an adequate sample size has been obtained.
Quality assurance results are disseminated at the local or internal level, to educate and publicize how to achieve best practice	Research results are published universally to share the knowledge with a wide user base of persons.

<http://www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/csd/ethics/docs/QA-Res.doc>

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