

## Screening Tool: Research or Program Evaluation/Quality Improvement?

*This checklist is intended to be used as a screening tool to help sort projects by primary purpose, to determine the appropriate route for ethics review. This tool has not been validated and is not intended to replace professional judgment and interpretation, but was developed to help increase consistency and transparency of ethics screening processes.*

Question	Yes	No
1. Is the project funded by, or being submitted to, a research funding agency for a research grant or award that requires research ethics review?		
2. Are there any local policies that require this project to undergo review by an IRB?		
<b><i>IF YES to either of the above, the project should be submitted to an IRB. IF NO to both questions, continue to complete the checklist.</i></b>		
3. Is the primary purpose of the project to contribute to the growing body of knowledge regarding health and/or health systems that are generally accessible through academic literature?		
4. Is the project designed to answer a specific research question or to test an explicit hypothesis?		
5. Does the project involve a comparison of multiple sites, control sites, and/or control groups?		
6. Is the project design and methodology adequate to support generalizations that go beyond the particular population the sample is being drawn from?		
7. Does the project impose any additional burdens on participants beyond what would be expected through a typically expected course of care or role expectations?		
<b><i>LINE A: SUBTOTAL Questions 3 through 7 (Count the # of Yes responses)</i></b>		
8. Are many of the participants in the project also likely to be among those who might potentially benefit from the result of the project?		
9. Is the project intended to define a best practice within your organization or practice?		
10. Would the project still be done at your site, even if there were no opportunity to publish the results or if the results might not be applicable anywhere else?		
11. Does the statement of purpose of the project refer explicitly to the features of a particular program, organization, or region, rather than using more general terminology (e.g., rural vs. urban populations)?		
12. Is the current project part of a continuous process of gathering or monitoring data within an organization?		
<b><i>LINE B: SUBTOTAL Questions 8 through 12 (Count the # of Yes responses)</i></b>		

**Interpretation**

- If the sum of Line A is greater than Line B, the most probable purpose is **research**, as the purpose of the study relates to the achievement of generalizable knowledge that can be extended to other populations/programs (i.e., external use). *The project should be submitted to WJCS' Research Committee for review, and any other IRB, if applicable.*
- If the sum of Line B is greater than Line A, the most probable purpose is **program evaluation/quality improvement**, as the purpose of the study relates to assessment, management, or improvement of existing programs/treatments (i.e., internal use). *Please complete the project description and certification below and submit to WJCS' Director of Research for approval.*
- If the sums are equal, *please consult with WJCS' Director of Research* to further explore whether the project should be classified as research or program evaluation/quality improvement.

**Project Description**

Please provide a brief description of the program evaluation project (i.e., identified program/population, project goals, data sources, basic procedures).

**Certification**

I certify that the above information is true.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Reviewed and approved by:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_