CLINICAL PRACTICE · 2026

SAVE THIS →

QI vs EBP vs Research.

Three tools that look the same.
They're not. Here's when to use each.

Method 01

QI

Fix the process where you stand

Method 02

EBP

Bring the best evidence in

Method 03

Re-search

Generate new knowledge

👇 CAROUSEL · 6 CARDS

#EBP #QI #RESEARCHINPRACTICE

Three approaches. One goal: better care.

01 · Quality Improvement

QI

PURPOSE

Improve specific processes within an organization

METHODS

- PDSA cycles
- Six Sigma
- Lean

SCOPE

Local

EXAMPLE

Cut falls. Cut wait times. Hand-hygiene compliance.

02 · Evidence-Based Practice

EBP

PURPOSE

Apply the best available evidence to clinical care

METHODS

- Systematic reviews
- Meta-analyses
- Guidelines

SCOPE

Broad clinical

EXAMPLE

Adopt new guidelines for chronic-disease management.

03 · Original Investigation

Research

PURPOSE

Generate new knowledge through systematic study

METHODS

- RCTs
- Observational
- Qualitative

SCOPE

Field-wide

EXAMPLE

Trial a new med. Study a new technique.

↻ **Interconnected — they complement each other in pursuit of high-quality, patient-centered care.**

03 / THE ESCALATION

When to level up your approach.

Most problems start in QI. You only escalate when the data tells you the current tools have run out.

STAGE 01

QI

Audit → RCA → PDSA → Re-measure

START HERE WHEN

Practice doesn't match the standard.

OUTCOMES STILL POOR?

STAGE 02

EBP

Ask → Search → Appraise → Apply

ESCALATE WHEN

Standards followed — outcomes still poor.

EVIDENCE GAP?

STAGE 03

Research

Design → Collect → Analyze → Publish

ESCALATE WHEN

Literature doesn't have the answer yet.

MOST PROBLEMS LIVE HERE 👆

Four jobs. Twelve tools.

Every QI problem fits into one of these buckets. Pick the right tool for the job.

JOB 01

Measure the gap

- Clinical Audit
- Statistical Process Control
- Performance Benchmarking

JOB 02

Find the cause

- Root Cause Analysis
- Process Mapping

QI TOOLKIT

JOB 03

Plan & pilot

- Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA)
- Lean Six Sigma

JOB 04

Promote change

- Decision Trees / Algorithms
- Communication Tools
- Technology

Scope. Methods. Goals.

The three dimensions that separate them — at a glance.

	QI	EBP	Research
SCOPE	QI Specific processes inside an organization	EBP Best evidence applied broadly to clinical practice	RESEARCH Generate or validate new knowledge
METHODS	QI Improvement methodologies (PDSA, Lean, Six Sigma)	EBP Research evidence + critical appraisal	RESEARCH Systematic investigation (trials, qualitative)
GOALS	QI Enhance performance & outcomes in context	EBP Clinical decisions based on best evidence	RESEARCH Expand the body of healthcare knowledge

💡 **Same patient. Different question. Different tool.**

Got a problem? Follow the arrows.

CASE · JULY 2025

850 ward days. 5 patient falls. All linked to staff non-compliance with established fall-prevention measures.

QUESTION 1

Are staff following established practice?

NO ↙

USE →

QI

Investigate unit processes. Audit, RCA, PDSA.

YES ↘

QUESTION 2

Are current standards reflecting best evidence?

NO ↙

USE →

EBP

Review the literature for current best practice.

YES ↘

USE →

Research

Literature has gaps? Generate new evidence.

VERDICT · THIS CASE

Start with QI.

Staff aren't following preventive measures — fix the process first.

#SAVEFORLATER