



## Introduction

- Quality improvement (QI) projects and clinical research play essential roles in healthcare to enhance and improve patient care.
- Clinical research uses the scientific method to investigate a health-related problem or phenomenon systematically.
- QI projects also employ rigorous methods, but it has become more difficult to delineate what constitutes QI versus research.
- Without oversight from a research ethics board to ensure ethical conduct in QI, how can project teams ensure ethical conduct within their QI initiative.

## Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to provide **five guidelines for maintaining ethical conduct** in QI initiatives.

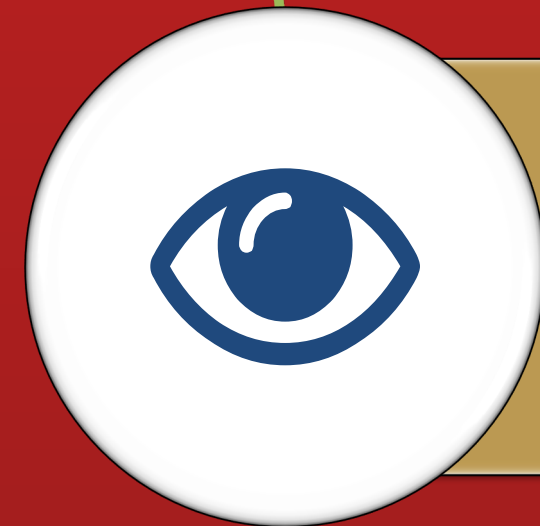
## Five Guidelines for Maintaining Ethical Conduct



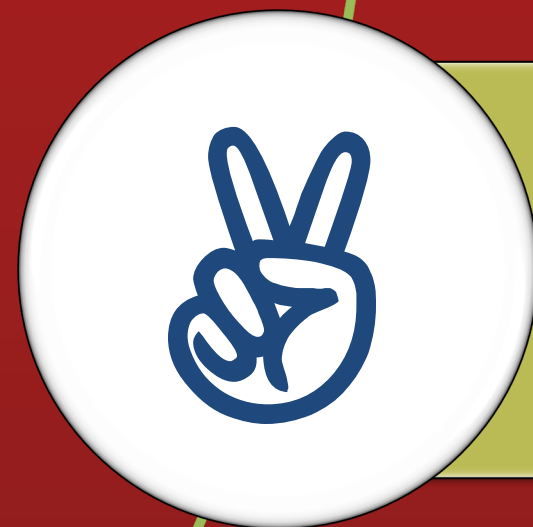
Review the purpose and design of the activity.



Consider the need for informed consent.



Consider how participant confidentiality is protected.



Consider whether the right of the participant to withdraw is necessary



Seek an exemption from a research ethics board.

## Conclusion

Although a review by a research ethics board is not required for QI, it is no justification for less rigour or less attention to the protection of participants.

Adhering to these five guidelines can help to ensure that ethical conduct is maintained when conducting quality improvement.

**Cite these guidelines in your publication!**

Hall, S., Lee, V., & Haase, K. (2020). Exploring the challenges of ethical conduct in quality improvement projects. *Canadian Oncology Nursing Journal / Revue canadienne de soins infirmiers en oncologie*, 30(1), 64-68.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7585708/>

Example:  
 “Recommended guidelines for maintaining ethical conduct (Hall et al., 2020) were followed.”