

Review of: "Quality improvement and research differences: A guide for DNP and PhD faculty"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Congratulations on the manuscript. Here are some constructive suggestions:

Although this is not a new discussion, the authors make a positive discussion on the topic with useful points.

Congratulations on the manuscript. Here are some constructive suggestions:

Title:

- Do not use abbreviations in the title, especially DNP, which may be unknown in many countries, limiting interest in the article.
- I suggest broaden the scope for any doctoral degree program in the health sciences field (eg. DRPH). This discussion is not restricted to nursing.

Introduction:

- Need to define what human subjects research is. Furthermore, the discussion seems to be greater: quality improvement or research.
- It was not clear where the wrong classification was seen based on the type of design of the project. Is it an impression of the author or something seen in the literature?

Research question:

- The presented research question does not seem exempt. The authors assume that quality improvement does not qualify as human subjects research.
- Alternative: Quality improvement qualify as human subject research?

Concerns in the text:

- Defining quality improvement as activities to improve only "processes" does not seem adequate to me when based on Donabedian's definition of structure, process and results.
- The topic about SQUIRE is somewhat contradictory to earlier parts of the text. This reporting standard relates to quality improvement only, but it can also be used for "human subjects" research results related to quality improvement. The SQUIRE is a tool for reporting "research" on quality improvement.

Conclusion:

The main difference between "quality improvement" and "human subject research" is one: management or research. Management is carried out by professionals from the health service itself and aims to solve problems and improve their scope of work; it is not intended for publication, generalization, etc. Research is carried out by people inside or outside the

health service, but with the purpose of producing generalizable knowledge. PhD students always do research, even if they are managers of a service in which they apply an intervention to improve. They do not just “improve quality”, as their intention will always be to build theoretical and generalizable knowledge, to publish, etc.