

SQUIRE CHECKLIST- pre ART

Title and abstract	
1. Title	
a. Indicates the article concerns the improvement of quality	Title includes quality and criteria
b. States the specific aim of the intervention	Title includes intervention
c. Specifies the study method used	Quantitative evaluation
2. Abstract Summarizes precisely all key information from various sections of the text using the abstract format of the intended publication	Key aspects summarised inc outcomes
Introduction	
3. Background Knowledge Provides a brief, non-selective summary of current knowledge of the care problem being addressed, and characteristics of organizations in which it occurs	Current literature summarised
4. Local problem Describes the nature and severity of the specific local problem or system dysfunction that was addressed	Local audit included
5. Intended improvement a. Describes the specific aim (changes/improvements in care processes and patient outcomes) of the proposed intervention b. Specifies who (champions, supporters) and what (events, observations) triggered the decision to make changes, and why now (timing)	Aim included
6. Study question States precisely the primary improvement-related question and any secondary questions that the study of the intervention was designed to answer	included
7. Ethical issues Describes ethical aspects of implementing and studying the improvement, such as privacy concerns, protection of participants' physical well-being, and potential author conflicts of interest, and how ethical concerns were addressed	Ethical approval stated
Methods	
8. Setting Specifies how elements of the local care environment considered most likely to influence change/improvement in the involved site or sites were identified and characterized	Details of setting outlined
9. Planning the intervention a. Describes the intervention and its component parts in sufficient detail that others could reproduce it b. Indicates main factors that contributed to choice of the specific intervention c. Outlines initial plans for how the intervention was to be implemented:	Programme design described
10. Planning the study of the intervention a. Outlines plans for assessing how well the intervention was implemented b. Describes mechanisms by which intervention components were expected to cause changes, and plans for testing whether those mechanisms were effective c. Identifies the study design chosen for measuring impact of the intervention on primary and secondary outcomes, if applicable d. Explains plans for implementing essential aspects of the chosen study design, as described in publication guidelines for specific designs, if applicable e. Describes aspects of the study design that specifically concerned internal validity (integrity of the data) and external validity (generalizability)	Key outcomes described and data sources
11. Methods of evaluation a. Describes instruments and procedures (qualitative, quantitative, or mixed) used to assess a) the effectiveness of implementation, b) the contributions of intervention components and context factors to effectiveness of the intervention, and c) primary and secondary outcomes b. Reports efforts to validate and test reliability of assessment instruments c. Explains methods used to assure data quality and adequacy	Data collection methods outlined
12. Analysis a. Provides details of qualitative and quantitative (statistical) methods used to draw	Analysis described

<p>inferences from the data</p> <p>b. Aligns unit of analysis with level at which the intervention was implemented, if applicable</p> <p>c. Specifies degree of variability expected in implementation, change expected in primary outcome (effect size), and ability of study design (including size) to detect such effects</p> <p>d. Describes analytic methods used to demonstrate effects of time as a variable</p>	
Results	
<p>13. Outcomes</p> <p>a) Nature of setting and improvement intervention</p> <p>b) Changes in processes of care and patient outcomes associated with the intervention</p>	Key outcomes over time included
Discussion	
<p>14. Summary</p> <p>a. Summarizes the most important successes and difficulties in implementing intervention components, and main changes observed in care delivery and clinical outcomes</p> <p>b. Highlights the study's particular strengths</p>	Results summarised
<p>15. Relation to other evidence</p> <p>Compares and contrasts study results with relevant findings of others, drawing on broad review of the literature;</p>	Other evidence reviewed
<p>16. Limitations</p> <p>a. Considers possible sources of confounding, bias, or imprecision in design, measurement, and analysis that might have affected study outcomes (internal validity)</p> <p>b. Explores factors that could affect generalizability (external validity),</p> <p>c. Addresses likelihood that observed gains may weaken over time, and describes plans, if any, for monitoring and maintaining improvement; explicitly states if such planning was not done</p> <p>d. Reviews efforts made to minimize and adjust for study limitations</p> <p>e. Assesses the effect of study limitations on interpretation and application of results</p>	Limitations and strengths outlined
<p>17. Interpretation</p> <p>a. Explores possible reasons for differences between observed and expected outcomes</p> <p>b. Draws inferences consistent with the strength of the data about causal mechanisms and size of observed changes, paying particular attention to components of the intervention and context factors that helped determine the intervention's effectiveness (or lack thereof), and types of settings in which this intervention is most likely to be effective</p> <p>c. Suggests steps that might be modified to improve future performance</p> <p>d. Reviews issues of opportunity cost and actual financial cost of the intervention</p>	Association (but not causation) included Limited cost data included
<p>18. Conclusions</p> <p>a. Considers overall practical usefulness of the intervention</p> <p>b. Suggests implications of this report for further studies of improvement interventions</p>	Summarised
<p>19. Funding Describes funding sources, if any, and role of funding organization in design, implementation, interpretation, and publication of study</p>	Funding statement