RAPID CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF A QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION/LEVEL OF EVIDENCE

Project title: ___________________________________________________________

Date: ________________________________________________________________

Reviewer(s) name(s): __________________________________________________

PICOT Question: _______________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Article citation: ______________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Indicate the level of evidence you are appraising: _______________________

Recommendation for article inclusion in the body of evidence to answer your question:

☐ Keep  ☐ Discard

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

OVERVIEW

1. Purpose of article/project:

____________________________________________________________________

2. QI Method:

____________________________________________________________________

3. Participants:

____________________________________________________________________

4. Setting:

____________________________________________________________________

5. Data Collection:

____________________________________________________________________
### QUALITY OF PROJECT

#### VALIDITY: Are the results of this project valid?

6. **Was an improvement method clearly identified?**
   - What was the improvement method?
     - [ ] PDSA/PDCA
     - [ ] Lean Process
     - [ ] CQI
     - [ ] TQM
     - [ ] Donabedian
     - [ ] Six Sigma
     - [ ] Other: _______________________

8. **Was the organizational culture clearly described?**
   - Were stakeholders discussed?
     - [ ] Yes
     - [ ] No

9. **Were the project methods clearly described, so that the improvement could be replicated?**

10. **Were the planned improvement interventions based on evidence?**
    - **External Evidence:**
      - [ ] Published Research
      - [ ] Published QI Reports
      - [ ] Benchmarks
    - **Internal Evidence:**
      - [ ] Pareto Analysis (Local Data)
      - [ ] Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (analysis of causes of dysfunction)
      - [ ] Baseline data collection

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11. Was a standardized outcome measurement used?  
   - Was outcome data collected in the same way as baseline data?  
     - Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☐  
   - What was measured? (enter below)  

12. Were adaptations/modifications made to the planned improvement?  
   - Were changes based on data?  
     - Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown ☐  

13. Was there freedom from conflict of interest?  
   - Sponsor/funding agency  

14. Was the date range of the cited literature current?  
   - What date ranges were included? _____ to _____  
     - If older literature was included, why was it included?  

RELIABILITY: Are these valid project reports important?  

15. Were evaluation methods appropriate (i.e. used statistics)?  
   - If the improvement included multiple steps or parts, was each part evaluated?  
     - Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐
16. What were the main results of the improvement?
- Aggregate mean values (standardized rates):
  - Pre/post (one group)
  - Between groups (multiple groups)
- Statistical Significance (p value)
- Effect Size

17. Were the results clinically significant/meaningful?  □ Yes  □ No  □ Unknown

18. Were the lessons learned discussed?
- Were benefits/harms, costs, unexpected results, problems, or failures reported or discussed?  □ Yes  □ No  □ Unknown

19. Were the improvement interventions studied over a period of time long enough to determine sustainability (e.g. long term effects, attrition, institutionalization)?  □ Yes  □ No  □ Unknown

APPLICABILITY/TRANSFERABILITY: Can I apply these valid, important project results?

20. Can the results be applied to my improvement need?
- Is the improvement feasible in my care setting?  □ Yes  □ No  □ Unknown
- Do the outcomes apply to my population of interest?  □ Yes  □ No  □ Unknown
- Are the likely benefits worth the potential harm and costs?  □ Yes  □ No  □ Unknown
- Were the participants in this improvement similar to my population of interest?  □ Yes  □ No  □ Unknown
- Were all clinically important outcomes considered?  □ Yes  □ No  □ Unknown
21. Will you include the article in your practice decision to make a difference in outcomes? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown

- If yes, why would you do this & how would you do this?
- If no, why not?

STRENGTH OF ARTICLE

Level of evidence: I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII

Quality of evidence: High | Medium | Low

STRENGTH = LEVEL + QUALITY

What is the strength of the article?

What is your recommendation for article inclusion in the body of evidence to answer your question?

☐ Include this article in the body of evidence (place article on evaluation & synthesis tables)
☐ Do NOT include this article in the body of evidence

Additional Comments:
References:


