

Research	Service evaluation	Clinical audit
Derive new knowledge, generate or test hypotheses	To define or judge current care	To inform delivery of best care
Quantitative – hypothesis Qualitative – explore themes	Evaluates standard	Does the service reach a predetermined standard?
Defined questions, aims, objectives	Evaluates standard	Measures against a standard
Quantitative – compare interventions Qualitative – interventions and relationships	'In use' intervention	'In use' intervention
Treatments / data / investigations additional to routine care	Analysis of existing data OR simple questionnaire	Analysis of existing data OR simple questionnaire
Quantitative – intervention groups Qualitative – sampling framework	Intervention decided before evaluation	Intervention chosen before audit
May involve randomisation	No randomisation	No randomisation