

QI ETHICS DECISION MAKING TOOL AND REGISTRY



The current [TCPS2](#) states that quality improvement and quality assurance studies, performance reviews, or testing within normal educational requirements do not constitute research and do not require Research Ethics Board (REB) review.

TCPS 2, [Article 2.5](#), defines quality improvement and quality assurance studies as studies related directly to assessing the performance of an organization or its employees or students, within the mandate of the organization or according to the terms and conditions of employment or training.



If you are unsure whether your project is quality improvement or research, or if you would like additional ethical review for non-research activities happening at Island Health, please use our [QI Ethics Decision-Making Support Tool](#).

All submissions to our tool will automatically register your project in the Island Health QI Registry hosted by REDCap™ and connect you with the local QI Ethics team for guidance and support.

The registry enables:



Understanding of the QI work happening in different areas of the organization



Connection between teams across sites and geographies



Proportionate consults for projects deemed higher risk



Support for QI projects regarding potential ethical issues with policy-informed expertise

Why include your project in the QI Registry:

- **Collaboration:** Opportunity to connect with staff and clinicians doing similar work.
- **Contacts:** Provides links to key contacts for QI projects at Island Health.
- **Consultation:** Opportunity to have a consultation with a QI Ethics consultant.
- **Record:** A formal record of your project will be stored on a protected server.
- **Contribution:** Adds to a repository to provide micro analysis of QI at Island Health.
- **Ethics:** A formal record that your QI project has undergone an ethics screening process, and access to an exemption letter from the REB if applicable.
- **Compliance:** Prompts your thinking regarding data access and management, patient partnerships, ethics, endorsement and quality structure alignment.

[QI Ethics Decision Making Tool & Registry](#)

Or look for this button on the Quality and Safety [intranet homepage](#):



Have ethics application questions? ResearchEthics@islandhealth.ca

<https://www.islandhealth.ca/research-capacity-building/research-ethics-compliance-office>