

Is my project...

RESEARCH or is it QUALITY ASSURANCE or INNOVATION?

RESEARCH

As per the Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) definition, research is a creative and systematic work undertaken in order to increase the stock of knowledge – including knowledge of humankind, culture and society – and to devise new applications of available knowledge.

AUDIT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES (QA)

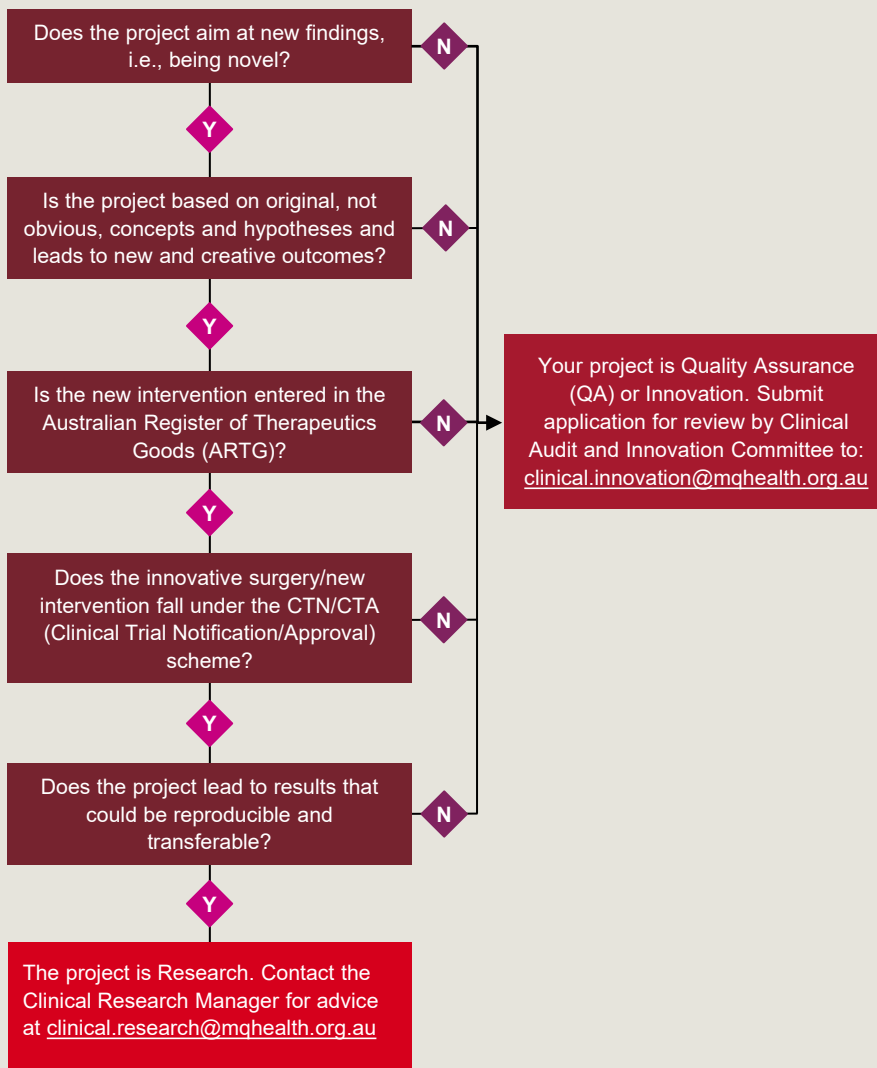
Such activities aim to identify and quantify what is currently being done (or not done), and/or the extent of a problem, practice or behaviour to gain knowledge that may then be used to improve a service or practice.

INNOVATIVE SURGICAL PROCEDURE

An innovative surgical procedure (technique or device) is any procedure that meets one or more of the following criteria: the technique/device used is new or differs from the standard technique in one or more of the following ways: altogether new, new to anatomical location, or new to patient group.

NEW INTERVENTION

A new intervention is a procedure not previously performed within Macquarie University Hospital but performed in another hospital. This will include variations to an existing treatment, a new medication or device or a new process introduced to deliver health care.



EXAMPLES OF QA ACTIVITIES

- The data being collected and analysed is co-incidental to standard operating procedures with standard equipment and/or protocols;
- The data being collected and analysed is expressly for the purpose of maintaining standards or identifying areas for improvement in the environment from which the data was obtained;
- The data being collected and analysed is not linked to individuals.

EXAMPLES OF INNOVATIONS

- Extension of microsurgical techniques;
- Established procedure undertaken on different category of patients;
- Surgical robot;
- New hip prosthesis, implant made from new material;
- First heart transplant;
- Use of established anastomotic techniques in new locations.

