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.

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**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.

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Does the project aim at new findings, i.e., being novel?

- Yes (Y) → Your project is Research. Contact the Clinical Research Manager for advice at clinical.research@mqhealth.org.au
- No (N) → Next question.

Is the project based on original, not obvious, concepts and hypotheses and leads to new and creative outcomes?

- Yes (Y) → Next question.
- No (N) → Your project is Quality Assurance (QA) or Innovation. Submit application for review by Clinical Audit and Innovation Committee to: clinical.innovation@mqhealth.org.au

Is the new intervention entered in the Australian Register of Therapeutics Goods (ARTG)?

- Yes (Y) → Next question.
- No (N) → Your project is Research. Contact the Clinical Research Manager for advice at clinical.research@mqhealth.org.au

Does the innovative surgery/new intervention fall under the CTN/CTA (Clinical Trial Notification/Approval) scheme?

- Yes (Y) → Next question.
- No (N) → Your project is Research. Contact the Clinical Research Manager for advice at clinical.research@mqhealth.org.au

Does the project lead to results that could be reproducible and transferable?

- Yes (Y) → Your project is Research. Contact the Clinical Research Manager for advice at clinical.research@mqhealth.org.au
- No (N) → Your project is Quality Assurance (QA) or Innovation. Submit application for review by Clinical Audit and Innovation Committee to: clinical.innovation@mqhealth.org.au