

SQUIRE – DRAFT 1.6 (12/7/13)

(Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence)

Text Section and Item Name	Section or Item Description
Notes to authors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SQUIRE provides a framework for reporting original, data-driven studies of improvement: intended changes and the strategies for achieving them. • Authors should consider every SQUIRE item, but it is often inappropriate to include information about every item in a manuscript. • Studies that generate hypotheses or explore the usefulness of explanatory models are also important for improvement, but the SQUIRE guidelines are not necessarily intended for these. • When using SQUIRE to write an article, cite as: XXXXX.
Title and Abstract	
Title and Abstract	Enable readers to decide whether to read the entire article and aid in searching and indexing.
Introduction	<i>Why did you start?</i>
Problem	Nature and severity of the local problem, and its context.
Current knowledge	Selective summary of current knowledge of the problem and prior studies relevant to the improvement.
Purpose	Specific aim of the improvement and intent of this report.
Methods	<i>What did you do?</i>
Context	Context elements that influenced the improvement, and reasons these elements were considered important.
Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The logic on which the improvement was based, including the mechanism by which the improvement was expected to work. • Description of the improvement, in sufficient detail that others can reproduce it.
Study of the Improvement	Study design (e.g., qualitative, quasi-experimental, experimental, mixed methods, time series) chosen for assessing the implementation of the improvement.
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process and outcome measures used for the improvement, including rationale for the choice of measures, their validity and reliability. • Assessment methods for context factors that contributed to the success, failure, efficiency, and cost of the improvement. • Methods employed to ensure completeness of data.
Analysis	Qualitative and quantitative (e.g., statistical process control) methods used to draw inferences from the data on efficacy and understand the variation.

Text Section and Item Name	Section or Item Description
Results	<i>What answers did you get?</i>
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial steps of the improvement and how it evolved over time (<i>e.g.</i>, time-line diagram, flow chart, or table). • Process and clinical outcomes of the improvement. • Observed associations between outcomes, improvement, and relevant contextual factors. • Unintended consequences such as benefits, harms, unexpected results, problems, or failures associated with the improvement. • Account for missing data and efforts to overcome data inadequacy
Discussion	<i>What does it mean?</i>
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key findings, including relevance to the study aim. • Relation of the key findings to the original logic and the mechanisms by which the study was expected to work. • Particular strengths of the work.
Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strength of the relationship between the improvement and the outcomes. • Clinical significance of the improvement. • Reasons for any differences between observed and expected outcomes, including contextual components. • Comparison of study results with findings from other studies.
Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confounding, bias, or imprecision in the improvement's design, methods, measurement, or analysis. • Limits to generalizability. • Efforts made to minimize and adjust for the study's limitations.
Conclusions and Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall utility of the improvement. • Implications of this work for further studies of improvement. • Costs and strategic trade-offs, including opportunity costs. • Modifications of the improvements to advance future work. • Likely future course of the improvements observed.
Other information	
Funding	Sources of funding that supported this work (<i>i.e.</i> , internal operations, external grant funding, other). Also, comment on the role, if any, that the funding organization had in design, implementation, interpretation, and publication of study
Ethical Considerations	Ethical aspects of implementing and studying the improvement and how they were addressed, including but not limited to formal review.