

**Starting University Clinical Careers
Efficiently, Scholarly, and Successfully**

**Publishing Quality Improvement
Projects**

Puneet Bajaj, M.D.

Quality Officer – Department of Medicine

Associate Professor of Internal Medicine

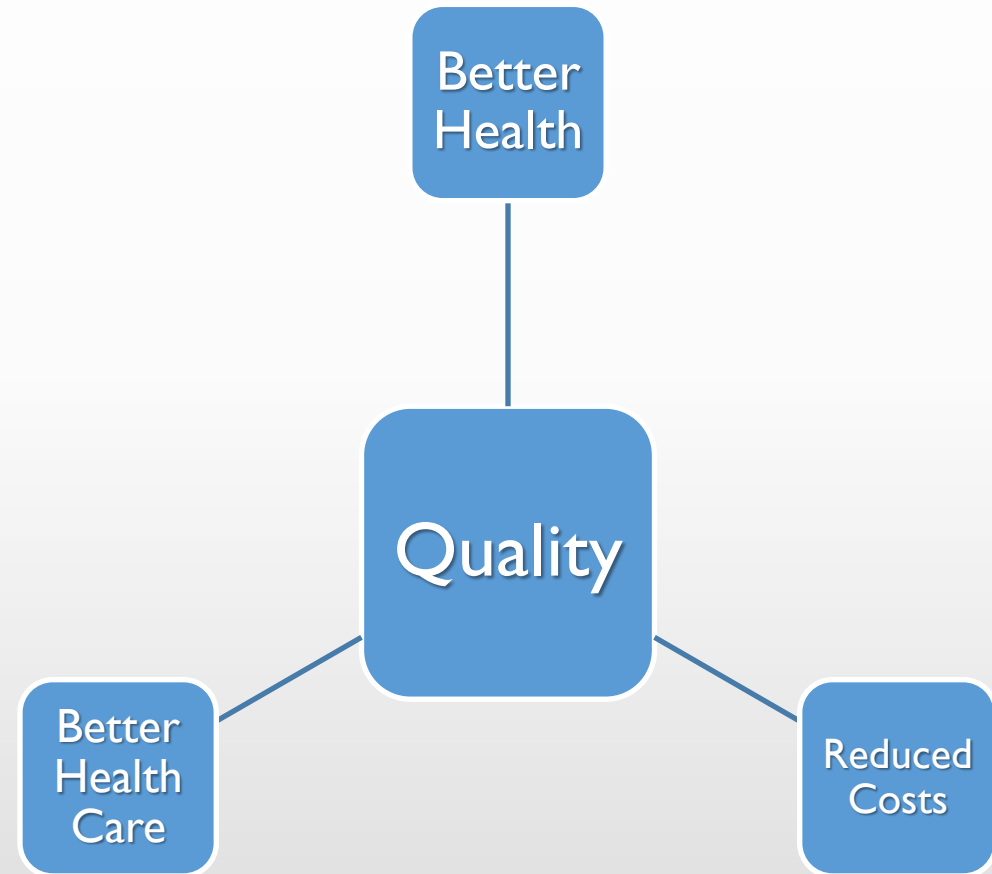
Agenda

- What is QI
- QI Methodology/Tools
- SQUIRE 2.0 guidelines
- IRB
- Journals to consider
- Common reasons for rejection of QI publications
- QI learning opportunities

Quality in Healthcare

- Definition: “The degree to which health care services for individuals and populations increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes and are consistent with current professional knowledge.”

Institute of Medicine



QI Methodology



JDI

- Just Do It

PDSA/PDCA

- Plan
- Do
- Study/Check
- Act

DMAIC

- Define
- Measure
- Analyze
- Improve
- Control

Lean

- Improving Efficiency
- Reducing Waste

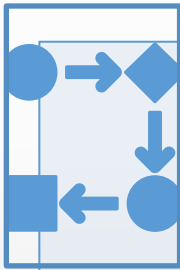
QI Tools



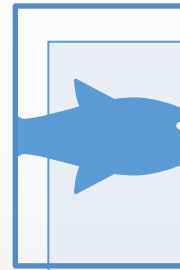
Project Charter



SMART Aim



Process Map



Fishbone/5
Whys



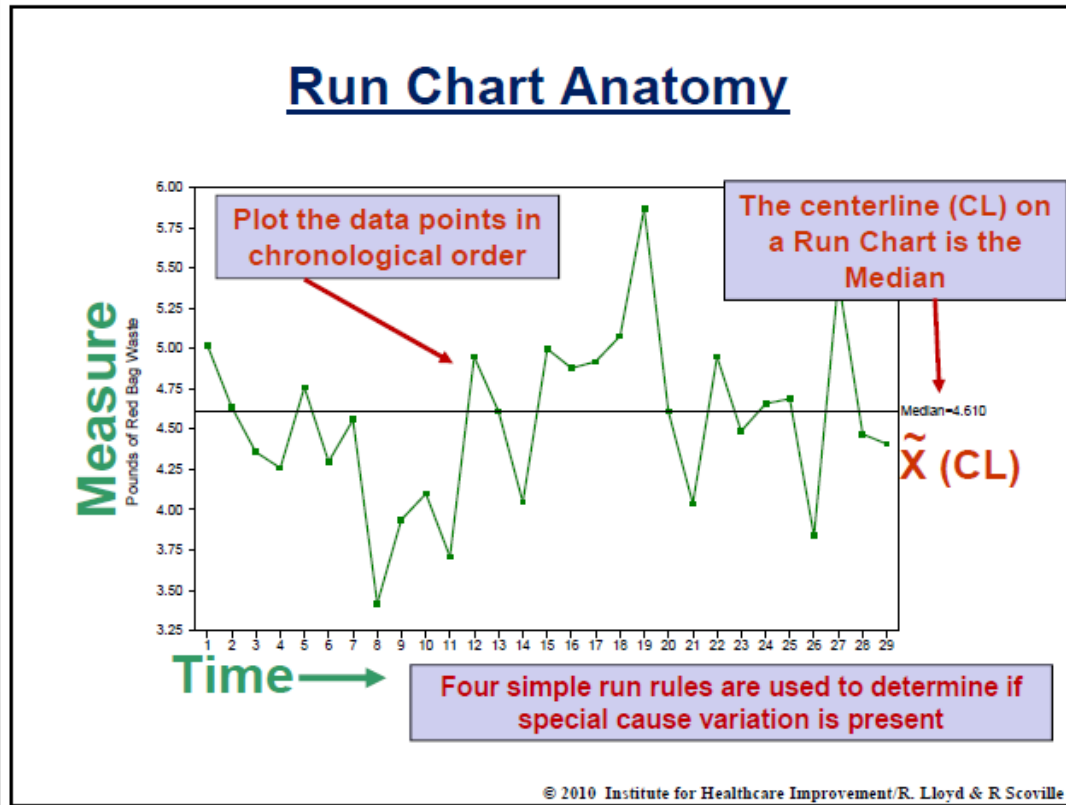
Pareto



Control/Line
Charts

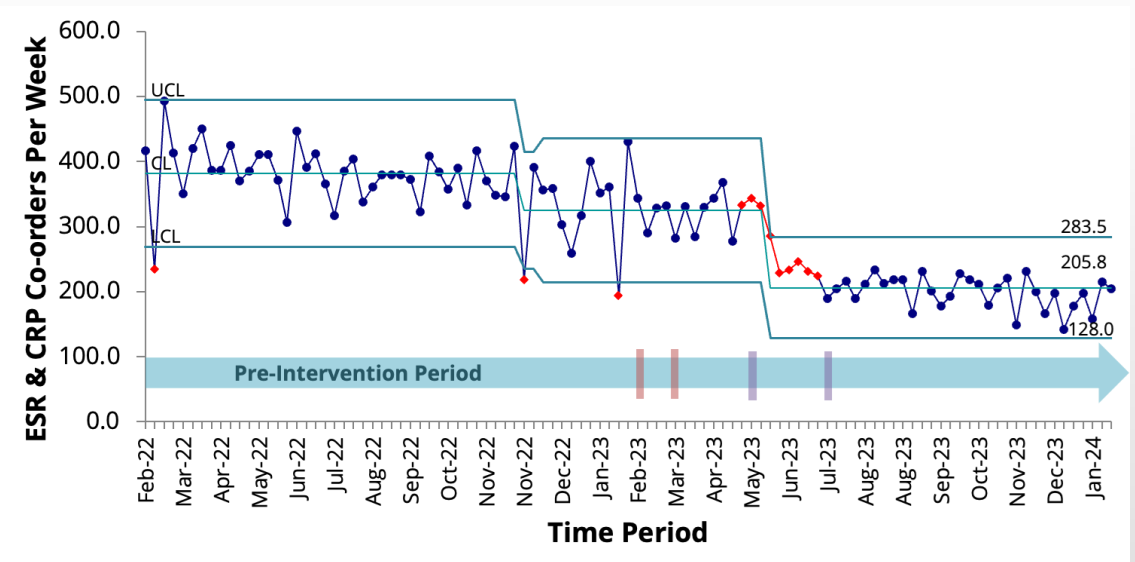
QI Statistical Tools

Run Chart



Control Chart

Reduction in ESR & CRP co-orders at UTSW



Publication of QI Projects

- Revised Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence (SQUIRE 2.0)

Title and Abstract – Title and abstract

Introduction – Problem description, available knowledge, rationale and specific aims

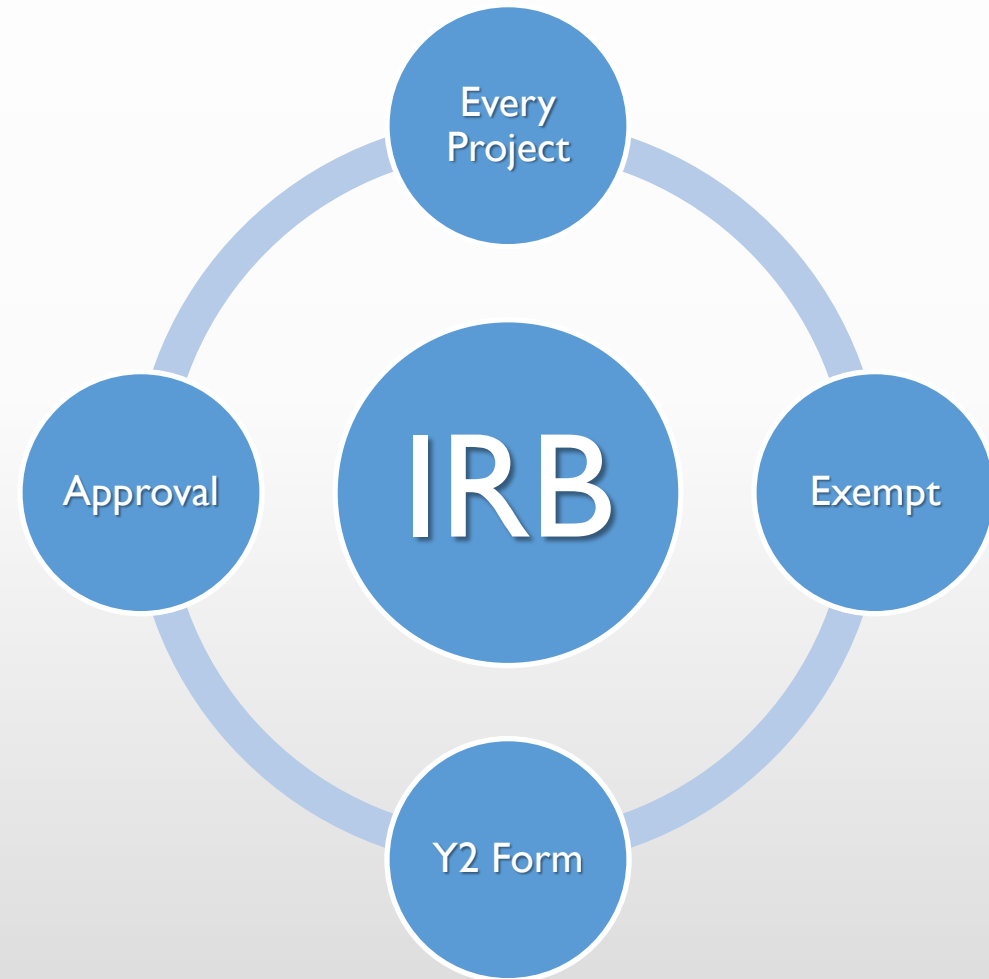
Methods – Context, interventions, study of the interventions, measures, analysis and ethical considerations

Results

Discussion and summary

IRB for QI Projects

- Institutional Review Board
- Generating generalizable knowledge vs improving systems
- Risk to participants
 - Quality improvement – worse case scenario is receiving usual care
 - Research – worse case scenario is receiving an experience that is inferior to usual care
- When in doubt - contact IRB



Journals for Publication of QI projects

[International Journal for Quality in Health Care](#)

[American Journal of Medical Quality](#)

[The Joint Commission Journal on Quality & Patient Safety](#)

[Journal of the American Medical Directors Association](#)

[Journal of Patient Safety](#)

[Journal for Healthcare Quality](#)

[Patient Safety & Quality Healthcare](#)

[Patient Safety in Surgery](#)

[Quality Management in Health Care](#)

[Southern Medical Journal](#)

Common Reasons for Rejection of QI Publications

- Aim, goals, and scope of project not clearly defined
- Poor understanding of QI tools and team dynamics
- Lack of adherence to accepted QI methodology (PDCA, DMAIC, etc.)
- Lack of appropriate statistical interpretation of results
- Poor description of why particular intervention was chosen
- Project too complicated

Publishing Quality Improvement Projects

Summary of Key Points

- 1 QI projects can be published
- 2 Methodology and format is critical
- 3 Journal selection makes a difference

Learning Opportunities in QI

- **UTSW Ethos CE website**
 - Short videos on QI methodology & tools
- **UTSW Performance Excellence & Quality Management**
 - Spring & Fall - Once a month class for 4 months (usually Fridays)
 - Expectation of a QI project during the course
- **UTSW Boot Camp in QI**
 - Usually in June (5 consecutive days: 8AM – 4PM)
- **IHI Open School**
 - Courses free for residents/fellows/faculty

<https://cme.utsouthwestern.edu/>

<https://www.utsouthwestern.edu/education/programs/quality-safety/training/performance-excellence/>

<https://www.utsouthwestern.edu/education/medical-school/degrees-pathways/md-quality-safety/boot-camp.html>

<https://www.ihl.org/education/ihl-open-school>

Starting University Clinical Careers Efficiently, Scholarly, and Successfully Questions?



Puneet Bajaj, M.D., MPH
Quality Officer – Dept. of Medicine
Associate Professor, Internal Medicine
Puneet.Bajaj@UTSouthwestern.edu