QI & PS article outline

Introduction

Paragraph 1

1. Define the problem

2. State the evidence

3. Justify why this study is needed

4. Clarify limitations or gaps in current knowledge

5. Connect back to purpose of this study

Paragraph 2

1. Summarize what I intend to improve

2. State aim

3. State tipping point that prompted change

4. State hypothesis & research questions

Methods

paragraph 1

describe research framework

study design

study period

population of interest

setting

ethical issues

IRB approval statement

explain why or how the setting and populations where chosen and justify exclusions

subheading: Intervention

explain program theory: how the intervention is related to improved outcome & why it was chosen

describe how the intervention was implemented

describe how effectiveness was assessed

describe how impact on outcome was assessed

if intervention evolved over time, describe

if modified for local context, describe

if various interventions, use different subheadings

subheading: Data collection

subheading: Variables

describe primary outcome measure

describe any secondary outcomes

describe hypothesis

subheading: Analysis

describe stats

name stats package

Results

report on demographics or setting characteristics

table 1: characteristics of study participants

report findings

table 2: unadjusted estimates (outcome variables, exposure variables)

report refined version of findings

table 3: adjusted estimates (logistic regression tables)

report qualitative data in bullet list in table or box

Discussion

paragraph 1

answer research question

summarize important findings

explain why findings are new & important

paragraph 2-3

discuss similarities and differences from other studies

what knowledge does this study add

discuss intervention & how contextual factors helped or hindered

reiterate hypothesis & discuss differences between observed and expected

would this intervention work in other settings?

subheading: limitations

disclose limitations

inferences you made

efforts to mitigate or eliminate effects

subheading: implications for stakeholders

what does this mean

what should they do

conclusion: 4 sentences or less

takeaway about findings