

**SQUIRE Guidelines**  
**(Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence)**  
**Version 2.62 SHORT – 10/2/08**

- These guidelines provide a framework for reporting formal, planned studies designed to assess the nature and effectiveness of interventions to improve the quality and safety of care.
- It may not be possible to include information about every numbered guideline item in reports of original studies, but authors should at least consider every item in writing their reports.
- Although each major section (i.e., Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion) of published studies generally contains some information about all of the numbered items within that section, information about items from one guideline section (for example, the Introduction) is often also needed in other sections (for example, the Discussion).

<i>Text section; Item number and name</i>	<i>Section or Item description</i>
<b><u>Title and abstract</u></b>	<i>Did you provide clear and accurate information for finding, indexing, and scanning your paper?</i>
<b>1. Title</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indicates the article concerns improvement of health care quality, and the specific aim of the intervention</li> </ul>
<b>2. Abstract</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarizes all key information using chosen journal's abstract format</li> </ul>
<b><u>Introduction</u></b>	<i>Why did you start?</i>
<b>3. Background Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarizes knowledge about the care problem, and characteristics of organizations in which it occurs</li> </ul>
<b>4. Local problem</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describes the nature and severity of the local problem that was addressed</li> </ul>
<b>5. Intended improvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describes the specific aim of the proposed intervention; also who and what triggered the decision to make changes, and why now</li> </ul>
<b>6. Study question</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• States the primary and secondary study questions</li> </ul>
<b>Methods</b>	<i>What did you do?</i>
<b>7. Ethical issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describes the ethical aspects of implementing and studying the improvement, and how ethical concerns were addressed</li> </ul>
<b>8. Setting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specifies how relevant context factors were identified and characterized</li> </ul>
<b>9. Planning the intervention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describes the intervention itself; why it was chosen; and what was to be done initially, and by whom</li> </ul>
<b>10. Planning the study of the intervention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describes plans for assessing how effectively the intervention was implemented; mechanisms by which intervention components were expected to cause changes; study design chosen; and efforts to maximize internal and external validity</li> </ul>
<b>11. Methods of evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describes instruments used to assess effectiveness of implementation; contributions of intervention components and context factors to intervention effectiveness, primary and secondary outcomes; validation of instruments; methods for assuring data quality and adequacy</li> </ul>
<b>12. Analysis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describes qualitative and quantitative analytic methods; variability expected in implementing the intervention; expected change in outcomes; power of study to detect such effects; methods used to demonstrate effects of time as a variable</li> </ul>

<b><i>Text section; Item number and name</i></b>	<b><i>Section or Item description</i></b>
<b>Results</b>	<i>What did you find?</i>
<b>13. Outcomes</b>	<p>a) Nature of setting and improvement intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Characterizes elements of setting, and structures and patterns of care that provided the context; actual course of the intervention; degree of success in implementing the intervention; evolution of the initial plan, and lessons learned from that evolution</li> </ul> <p>b) Changes in care process and clinical outcomes associated with the intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presents data on changes in care delivery process and patient outcomes; benefits, harms, unexpected results, problems, failures; evidence on strength of the association between outcomes and intervention/context factors; summary of missing data for intervention and outcomes</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion</b>	<i>What do the findings mean?</i>
<b>14. Summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarizes key successes and difficulties in implementing the intervention; observed changes in care delivery and clinical outcomes; study's particular strengths</li> </ul>
<b>15. Relation to other evidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compares and contrasts study results with relevant findings of others</li> </ul>
<b>16. Limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers possible confounding, bias, or imprecision that might have affected accuracy (internal validity), and factors affecting generalizability (external validity); likelihood that observed gains may weaken over time, and plans for monitoring and maintaining improvement; efforts to minimize and adjust for study limitations; effects of study limitations on interpretation and application of results</li> </ul>
<b>17. Interpretation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explores reasons for differences between observed and expected outcomes; inferences about strength of evidence, causal mechanisms and size of changes; modifications to improve future performance; opportunity costs and actual financial costs</li> </ul>
<b>18. Conclusions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers overall usefulness of the intervention locally; settings in which this intervention is likely to be effective; implications for further studies of improvement</li> </ul>
<b>Other information</b>	<i>Were other factors relevant to conduct and interpretation of the study?</i>
<b>19. Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describes funding sources, if any, and role of funding organization in design, implementation, interpretation, and publication of study</li> </ul>