

#### Special Issue Editors:

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The *AANA Journal* is pleased to invite you to submit your work to an upcoming special issue dedicated to Quality Improvement (QI) Projects and Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) in anesthesia and perioperative care. QI empowers clinicians to identify gaps in care and implement data-driven solutions. At the same time, EBP ensures that clinical decisions are grounded in the best available research, clinical expertise and patient preferences.

Papers should present original, unpublished work that aims to improve outcomes in anesthesia and perioperative care. All EBP and QI projects submitted for consideration must include the implementation of an intervention aimed at driving change. Projects that involve only a literature review without an intervention will not be considered.

Papers should be submitted electronically through the *AANA Journal* portal: <https://www.aana.com/practice/aana-journal/submitting-a-manuscript/>.

The submissions should indicate in the cover letter that the paper should be considered for this special issue, along with three suggested peer reviewers.

All submissions should include approval letters from the local institutional review board (IRB).

All submitted papers will go through peer review with consideration given to their contribution to anesthesia practice, originality, methodological soundness, clarity of the presentation of ideas and the relevance of the submission for this special issue.

Accepted papers will be published electronically.

#### Criteria for EBP Project Reports

We recognize that EBP projects are broad and diverse in nature and may not fit perfectly into a rigid template, unlike other categories of submissions. However, we strongly recommend that authors refer to EBP reporting guidelines<sup>2</sup> by Whalen et al. 2024 and include the following headers.

1. **Abstract** – Precisely summarize all elements of the EBP report listed below.
2. **Introduction** – Describe the rationale for the project, its significance and its relationship to practice; briefly address the state of current knowledge; explain the purpose of the EBP project; and explicate the EBP question (usually in a PICO format).
3. **Methods** – Identify any EBP design/model used or clearly explain the approach to collecting, analyzing and synthesizing the results and explain the qualifications, selection and formation of the team. The data-gathering process, including keywords, databases, inclusion and exclusion criteria, and methods for analyzing, reviewing, screening, ranking and appraising articles for quality of evidence, should be described. Include operational definitions as indicated for clarity and explain the process for synthesizing the evidence and creating practice recommendations.
4. **Results** – Present a synthesis of evidence with quality ranking (consider table format); list strengths and components of evidence; and compile and present best-evidence recommendations for practice.
5. **Implementation** – Clearly describe practice setting; how evidentiary recommendations were translated into best practices, including an implementation model or framework; describe intervention(s) including process, outcomes, and measures; data collection and analysis; and describe results of implementation.
6. **Discussion** – Align the implementation approaches and outcomes with current evidence, lessons learned, the impact of implementation on current practice, challenges addressed, limitations and future directions to better solve the identified problem.
7. **Conclusion** – Summarize how this EBP project addressed the initial clinical question.
8. **Funding** sources, if any.

#### Submission Criteria:

- Projects must be implemented and include measurable outcomes
- Manuscripts should follow the SQUIRE 2.0<sup>1</sup> or EBP<sup>2</sup> reporting guidelines

#### Important Dates:

- Submission Deadline: May 1, 2026
- Publication Date: December 20, 2026

#### Why Submit?

- Share your work with a national and international audience of anesthesia professionals
- Contribute to the advancement of safe, effective and evidence-based anesthesia care
- Inspire innovation and improvement across the profession

**For questions or additional information, contact the editorial team:**

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**Criteria for a QI Project**  
QI project manuscripts should demonstrate an understanding of the baseline processes, utilize scientific methodology and measurement plan, tailor the intervention to the local context and clearly explain the **implementation strategies and lessons learned**. Use the Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence (SQUIRE) guidelines when preparing the manuscript.<sup>1,3</sup>

- 1. **Title** – Indicate the focus of the QI project - safety, patient-centered, timely, efficient and equity.
- 2. **Abstract** - Precisely summarize all elements of the QI report listed below.
- 3. **Introduction** – Describe the rationale for the project, its significance, and the local context of the problem (problem statement). Clearly explain specific aims or goals. What or who triggered the changes, and why now? Clearly state the primary improvement question(s) as solutions to the identified problem.
- 4. **Methods** – Identify the framework/model that guided the QI projects (if applicable). Describe the local setting (hospital, unit, clinic, freestanding surgical center or other), the intervention, implementation and measurements in detail. Indicate the rationale that informs the intervention, the project team and local champions.

The implementation should be described sequentially – who, what, when, how and key performance indicators (primary and secondary outcomes). Include psychometric information such as the validity and reliability of the instruments used. Comment on aspects of the project design that affected internal (integrity of data) and external (generalizability) validity as well as mitigation strategies. Describe the data analysis approach.

- 5. **Results** – Summarize key demographics and findings (include tables and figures, if applicable). Present findings related to changes in key performance indicators (e.g., care delivery process, cost and patient outcomes). Link the observed outcomes with the intervention. Summarize any missing data for intervention and outcomes.
- 6. **Discussion** – Remind the reader of the local problem and summarize the findings of your QI project. Compare and contrast the project outcomes/findings with similar studies or projects and discuss the limitations and challenges addressed. Emphasize key considerations for ensuring the sustainability of the change, including how the project plans evolved, implementation strategies and lessons learned. Suggest directions for future projects or studies.
- 7. **Conclusion** – Summarize how this QI project addressed the initial clinical problem.
- 8. **Funding** sources, if any.

**Key similarities and differences between EBP and QI**

Aspects	Evidence-Based Practice (EBP)	Quality Improvement (QI)
Focus	<b>BROAD</b> – Applying the best available evidence to improve patient outcomes	<b>NARROW</b> - Improving local processes, systems or workflow in a healthcare system
Question or Purpose	Uses a clinical questions (e.g., PICO(T) format) to guide practice	Identifies and solves specific problems in a local setting
Generalizability	Yes- Aims for broader applicability across settings	No – Typically limited to a specific local setting or unit where implemented
Framework or Model	Examples include the John Hopkins EBP Model, Iowa Model	Examples include PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act), Lean, Six Sigma
Structure of Manuscript	Introduction, Methods Results, Implementation, Discussion -Lessons learned -Challenges/Limitations -Future Directions Conclusion	Introduction, Methods Results, Implementation, Discussion -Lessons learned -Limitations/challenges -Sustainability strategies /Future Directions Conclusion

**References**

1. Oermann MH, Ingles T. Writing manuscripts about quality improvement: SQUIRE 2.0 and beyond. URL: [https://wkauthorserviceseditage.com/resources/files/writing\\_manuscripts\\_about\\_quality\\_improvement.pdf](https://wkauthorserviceseditage.com/resources/files/writing_manuscripts_about_quality_improvement.pdf) [accessed 2021-04-24]. 2017

2. Whalen M, Bissett K, Ascenzi J, Budhathoki C. Reporting guidelines for evidence-based practice projects: A Delphi study and publication checklist. *Worldviews on Evidence-Based Nursing*. 2024;21(6):634-643.

3. Ogrinc G, Mooney S, Estrada C, et al. The SQUIRE (Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence) guidelines for quality improvement reporting: explanation and elaboration. *BMJ Quality & Safety*. 2008;17(Suppl 1):i13-i32.