Research vs. Public Health Practice vs. Quality Improvement

**Research:**
- New, untried practice or treatment intervention
- Presence of risk, however slight, to the participants
- Primary audience is the scientific community and consumers
- Information is *generalizable*
- Data collected from multiple organizations
- Subject selection may involve randomization or differential subject selection

**Public Health Practice:**
- Activity involves a corresponding governmental duty to perform the activity to protect the public’s health
- The activity is designed to improve the health of a population; it is not designed in whole or in part to contribute to generalizable data. The activity is not a knowledge-seeking enterprise independent of routine medical care or public health practice; instead, the activity is standard public health activity conducted according to the responsibilities of public health agencies.
- The activities as described do not to confer differential benefits on certain groups, in the sense that one group benefits at the expense of another, or benefits more than another.
- This activity is conducted using standard public health methods, and does not involve experimental methods.
- The activity does not involve randomization or differential subject selection
- The activity is not FDA-regulated

**Quality Improvement:**
- Accepted practice or treatment intervention not previously implemented
- Absence of risk to participants
- Primary audience is the organization and information is applicable only to the organization
- Data collected from a single organization

**Citations:**