Since QA/QI studies do not meet the definition of research, IRB approval and oversight of such projects is not required. However, making the determination as to whether a project is QA/QI or research can often be difficult. It must be kept in mind that projects can be both QA/QI and research requiring IRB approval and oversight. Therefore, a determination of this QA/QI status must be requested from the LSUHSC-NO IRB before any QA/QI project to be conducted by LSUHSC-NO personnel is initiated. Note that this requirement does not apply to QA/QI projects conducted by LSUHSC-NO employees for HCSD or other hospital operations.