

Quality Improvement and Safety Category

We're looking for abstracts that describe work in quality improvement (QI) and patient safety, with a clear focus on making and testing changes over time. This means going beyond just collecting data or doing a one-off audit — we want to see how you've used matched the appropriate methods to your problem (like PDSA cycles, driver diagrams, or run charts) to test, learn and adapt. Ideally, projects should show at least two cycles of improvement, with clear learning between them and measurement over time. Importantly, your improvement work doesn't have to be branded 'QI' – we are interested in system, process or behaviour change efforts to improve care for children and young people.

We're especially interested in work that shows sustained improvement or ongoing efforts to make change stick — for example, a 1–2 year follow-up on a project presented previously. If things didn't go as planned, that's okay too — tell us what you tried, what you learned, and what you're doing next.

We also really want to hear from teams working on improvements that respond to recurring themes or patterns – those sticky problems that your team or unit has known about for a while – whether locally or across the wider system.

You're welcome to submit if your project has been presented at RCPCCH before or at other conferences, as long as there's new learning, progress or impact to share. We also accept work that's been shared or published elsewhere. And finally, we're especially keen to see projects that have involved children, young people and families (CYPF+) in a meaningful way.

We've included some additional notes below on what the judges will be looking for when marking abstracts in the QI and safety category.

Abstract guidance

Your abstract should not exceed 470 words, plus 130 word allowance for references and headings (total of 600 words). Please ensure you include the below headings in your abstract and include the relevant text under the appropriate heading.

Abstracts should be structured under the following headings:

Why did you do this work? (up to 90 words)	Describe relevant background and context that led to the work. This could include description of a problem, current knowledge and specific aims. Reviewers will be looking for you to demonstrate that you understand the current evidence base, what previous improvement work has been done on this topic, why this problem needs addressing in your context and how you consulted CYPF+ and multidisciplinary colleagues.
What did you do? (up to 140 words)	Describe what you did, and the rationale for this. Include: any intervention(s), and how you assessed impact; nature of any data collected; approach to analysis of data. Reviewers will be looking for you to demonstrate you have matched the appropriate methods to the problem, involved a multidisciplinary team and involved CYPF+. For QI, this is likely to have some element of measurement over time, iteration and learning from data to demonstrate sustained improvement within your specific context.
What did you find? (up to 160 words)	Summarise your key findings in relation to your aims, and according to the overall approach of your work (for example qualitative or quantitative research; quality improvement; etc). Reviewers will be looking for you to clearly present findings in text and attached figures. For QI, if possible, include how variation has been affected and whether changes have been sustained or not over time. They are as interested in negative as positive results.
What does it mean? (up to 80 words)	Discuss the meaning and actual or potential impact of your findings, including how generalisable. Consider commenting on strengths and limitations. Reviewers will be looking for you to demonstrate you have reflected upon how this work can be learnt upon and used for future improvement work in your unit/team and beyond. Have you reflected on the human factors aspects of your work and what would affect sustaining and normalising improvements? What should we consider doing because of your learning?