

**Table 2**  
**Key features of the SQUIRE guidelines that differ from the initial draft**

| <i>SQUIRE section and item</i>             | <i>Added or changed feature of SQUIRE</i>  |
|--|--|
| <b>Title and abstract</b>                  | Focuses on the accessibility/retrievability of your article  |
| 1. Title                                   | Specifies what is meant by improvement, aim of intervention, study methods   |
| 2. Abstract                                | Separated from Title; elaborates on abstract format  |
| <b>Introduction</b>                        | Focuses on the rationale of your study   |
| 3. Background knowledge                    | Asks for characteristics of organizations in which the problem occurs  |
| 4. Local problem                           | No change  |
| 5. Intended improvement                    | More specific about improvement aim, plus what triggered the decision to make changes  |
| 6. Study question                          | Distinguishes the study question from the aim of the improvement   |
| <b>Methods</b>                             | Focuses on what you did  |
| 7. Ethical issues                          | Added item: addresses concrete ethical issues rather than administrative ethics review   |
| 8. Setting                                 | Highlights context features relevant to why an intervention succeeds   |
| 9. Planning the intervention               | Requests specifics on intervention components, factors in choice of the intervention, initial plans for implementation   |
| 10. Planning the study of the intervention | Added item: separates study of the interventions from the improvement methods themselves; requests specifics on intervention dose and mechanism, study design, issues of internal and external validity                          |
| 11. Methods of evaluation                  | Requests specifics on qualitative and quantitative methods; implementation effectiveness, mechanism, primary and secondary outcomes; data quality  |
| 12. Analysis                               | Requests specifics on qualitative and quantitative approaches; appropriateness of the unit of analysis; power  |
| <b>Results</b>                             | Focuses on what you found  |
| 13. Outcomes                               | Includes characteristics of setting relevant to intervention mechanism; requests specifics on success of implementation, strength of association between intervention and outcomes, missing data                                 |
| <b>Discussion</b>                          | Focuses on what your findings mean   |
| 14. Summary                                | Highlights the study's strengths   |
| 15. Relation to other evidence             | Suggests use of summary table of available published evidence  |
| 16. Limitations                            | Requests specifics on maintenance of improvement, and on challenges to internal and external validity  |
| 17. Interpretation                         | Expands on the differences between observed and expected results; strength of the data; influence of context factors; modifications that might increase the intervention's effectiveness; opportunity and actual financial costs |
| 18. Conclusions                            | No change  |
| <b>Other information</b>                   | Focuses on factors external to the study itself that could affect findings and conclusions   |
| 19. Funding                                | Requests specifics on funding sources and role of funders in conduct of the study  |