

Quality Improvement for Senior Health Science Students

Goals: Students will collaborate as members of an interprofessional quality improvement team in order to learn and apply quality improvement methods to systematically analyze and propose changes to improve clinical practice environments.

Objectives:

1. Following the completion of this learning activity, senior level students will demonstrate the ability to identify areas for improvement in clinical practice settings.
2. Following the completion of this learning activity, senior level students will understand the importance of error prevention both to individual patients and to systems.
3. Following the completion of this learning activity, senior level students will gain familiarity with PDSA cycles, root cause analysis and basic tools used during the exploration of quality improvement activities.
4. While participating in this learning activity, senior level students will act as an active and integrated member of an interprofessional team who in most situations prioritizes team goals over one's own professional goals.
5. Following the completion of this learning activity, senior level students will understand the roles of other team members, seeks their counsel, actively listens to their recommendations, and incorporates them into practice.
6. While participating in this learning activity, senior level students will communicate in a bidirectional manner and keeps all team members informed and up to date.
7. While participating in this learning activity, senior level students will modify and adapts communication content and style based on audience, venue, receiver preference, or type of message.

Day 1 – Efficacy Pre-test (ungraded, survey)
(Re)Introduction to Quality Improvement
Fundamentals of QI presentation
PDSA activity
Introduce teams and project

Day 2 – Root Cause Analysis

Day 3 – OSCE (begin late summer)

Day 4 – Efficacy Post-test (ungraded, survey)
Project presentations

Quality improvement (QI) consists of systematic and continuous actions that lead to measurable improvement in health care services and the health status of targeted patient groups.

The Institute of Medicine's (IOM) which is a recognized leader and advisor on improving the Nation's health care, defines quality in health care as a direct correlation between the level of improved health services and the desired health outcomes of individuals and populations. For most of the last century, quality improvement methods have not been consistently coupled with health care delivery in the United States. We know from rigorous studies, that an organization that implements quality improvement methods experiences a range of benefit including improved patient health outcomes, lower costs and enhanced communication and job satisfaction among providers. QI is a team process. Under the right circumstances, a team harnesses the knowledge, skills, experience, and perspectives of different individuals within the team to make lasting improvements.

As part of this clerkship, in addition to building upon prior learnings related to patient safety and quality improvement, you will work as a team to identify and propose solutions to a quality issue relevant to geriatrics, rehab, or palliative care.