A History of IHI

The phases and events that have shaped the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) reflect the quality improvement journey of the health care community as a whole.

### 1980s
- **1980**: IHI’s founder, Don Berwick, MD, serves as the First National Interprofessional Conference on Health Care Improvement.
- **1987**: IHI launches the National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care.
- **1988**: The first five months of the National Forum exceed 200 members.
- **1989**: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation selects IHI to manage the National Initiative for Children’s Health Care for America.
- **1990**: The National Forum exceeds 5,000 attendees for the first time.
- **1993**: More than 80 organizations join in the patients-driven network for change. More than 40,000 listeners.
- **1999**: IHI partners with The National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care.

### 1990s
- **1991**: IHI partners with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to launch the National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care.
- **1992**: The National Forum launches the IMPACT Series Guide.
- **1993**: The notion of the Triple Aim is launched at IHI. Two years later, the results—mortality are seen in IHI’s work.
- **1994**: IHI begins work with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on the National Healthcare Improvement Collaboratives (NHIC).
- **1995**: IHI launches the IHI Sentinel Event Alert System (IEAS) to help students develop quality improvement and safety knowledge.
- **1996**: The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) is launched at IHI.
- **1997**: IHI launches the School for Health Professions Education.
- **1998**: IHI launches the Triple Aim initiative.

### 2000s
- **2000**: IHI introduces new programs for healthcare improvement and safety knowledge.
- **2001**: IHI partners with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to plan and implement the Triple Aim.
- **2002**: IHI launches the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Open Forum.
- **2003**: IHI launches the IHI Open Forum’s “Engaging Patients” initiative.
- **2004**: IHI launches the IHI Triple Aim initiative.
- **2005**: IHI launches the STAAR initiative to help students develop quality improvement and safety knowledge.
- **2006**: IHI launches the IHI Open Forum’s “Engaging Patients” initiative.

### 2010s
- **2010**: IHI launches the IHI Open Forum’s “Engaging Patients” initiative.
- **2011**: IHI launches the IHI Open Forum’s “Engaging Patients” initiative.
- **2012**: IHI launches the IHI Open Forum’s “Engaging Patients” initiative.

### 2020s
- **2023**: IHI launches the IHI Open Forum’s “Engaging Patients” initiative.

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About the Institute for Healthcare Improvement

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), an independent not-for-profit organization based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is a leading innovator in health and health care improvement worldwide. For more than 25 years, we have partnered with visionaries, leaders, and front-line practitioners around the globe to spark bold, inventive ways to improve the health of individuals and populations. To advance our mission, IHI's work is focused in five key areas:

- Improvement Capability
- Person- and Family-Centered Care
- Patient Safety
- Quality, Cost, and Value
- Triple Aim for Populations

IHI creates dynamic learning communities for health care professionals to learn from, collaborate with, and be inspired by colleagues and expert faculty throughout the world. Our professional development programs — including conferences, seminars, and audio and web-based programs — guide every level of the workforce, from executive leaders to front-line staff.

The IHI Open School is committed to developing students, the next generation of improvers, through free online courses and an international network of Chapters. For all who join us in improving health care, we provide a wealth of free content through our website, ihi.org, and our audio program, WIHI.

IHI also works with a wide range of entities — whether health care facilities, entire health care systems, or governments — to help them achieve significant results in quality, safety, and innovation. We collaborate with these change agents on the front lines of care to accelerate improvement in vital areas, including maternal and neonatal health, end-of-life care, avoidable hospital readmissions, waste and cost reduction, person- and family-centered care, and the spread of the Triple Aim.

IHI's Leverage Strategy

At IHI, the spirit of this one little saying has inspired many big outcomes. People who are drawn to IHI see beyond walls to the possibilities on the other side. We are inspired and energized by one uniting vision: a future in which everyone has the best care and health possible. Although the problems are big and daunting, we resolve to approach them with optimism grounded in rigorous science, hard work, and a relentless drive for results.

At IHI, we design, test, refine, and disseminate. This creates systemic change and builds capability. We then leverage this capability to roll out innovative solutions in the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors. Throughout the process, we develop a community of practice to help sustain the innovations.

At IHI, we measure our impact in millions rather than billions. This is because we believe that improving health care starts with one person and continues to ripple outward, one person at a time. The people we serve are the ones we work with, learn from, and care for most personally.

As IHI’s Executive Director Sanjay Gupta says, “When you come upon a wall, throw your hat over it, and then go get your hat.”