

How Does Lean Compare to IHI's Approach to QI?

Learning Objectives

- Identify at least one difference between Lean and the IHI approach to quality improvement.
- Identify at least one similarity between Lean and the IHI approach to quality improvement.
- Discuss how people familiar with Lean and people familiar with the IHI approach to quality improvement can learn from each other.

Description: Usually when people at IHI talk about quality improvement, we're talking about clinical improvement. But QI tools and concepts can help improve anything. In this Open School video short, Dr. James Moses, Academic Advisor to the Open School, shares his belief that "there's nothing that shouldn't continue to be improved," and describes how his QI knowledge helps in his personal life.

Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/LENZbA1owVo> or [read the transcript](#).

Discussion Questions

1. What are the basic concepts and principles of IHI's approach to quality improvement and Lean? How are the two models similar? How are they different?
2. For what purposes is IHI's quality improvement model the most appropriate approach? For what purposes is Lean the best approach?
3. Why might it be useful to include elements of Lean and the Model for Improvement in your improvement work? Think of specific examples if you can.
4. Have you led improvement work using Lean and/or the Model for Improvement? What lessons from your experiences can you share?