



Creating a Program for Student-Led QI in a Large Community Health Center

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Overview

- Student-led QI projects offer students the opportunity to begin improving patient care and learn key QI skills early in their careers
- In response, the IHI OS Emory chapter aimed to create an ongoing program for chapter members from medicine, nursing and public health to lead QI projects that would directly benefit patients.
- The Good Samaritan Health Center is a large, sliding-scale community health center actively developing a QI program. We have partnered with their leadership to design an interdisciplinary program for students to carry out QI projects at their facility.
- **Through a new partnership with a large community health center in Atlanta, students will be able to lead QI initiatives that improve care among a vulnerable, safety-net population.**



The Good Samaritan Health Center has been serving Atlanta since 1999. The clinic sees nearly 28,000 patients annually, 70% of whom are considered the working poor with incomes below 200% FPL.

Proposed Projects and Resources

Care Coordination	Improving the rate of abnormal pap smear results monitored to resolution.
	Improving HbA1C monitoring and diabetes management.
Standards of Care	Improving mammography screening rates.
	Improving childhood vaccination rates
Clinical Efficiency	Improving practice use of EMR to increase efficiency and effectiveness of care.

Fig 1: Proposed areas for initial projects. Project teams will be comprised of students from medicine, public health and nursing and visit the clinic on a weekly to bi-weekly basis. Teams report-out results to faculty mentors and clinic administration on a monthly basis.

Integrating Open School Resources

- L101—Becoming a Leader in Health Care
- QI 101-103
 - Fundamentals of Improvement
 - Model for Improvement
 - Measuring for Improvement
- QI 106: Level 100 Tools
- PS 102—Human Factors and Safety
- QI 201—Quality Improvement Practicum

Fig 2: Resources to guide student learning. In addition to direct mentorship by faculty, students will be asked to complete several IHI OS online courses, including the QI 201 Quality Improvement Practicum Certificate.

Learning Objectives

1. Apply QI tools and principles in a real world setting to improve patient care
2. Identify common barriers to QI and how to overcome them.
3. Appreciate the complexity of healthcare systems
4. Understand how interprofessional teams function and use collaboration to improve patient care.
5. Appreciate the unique challenges of delivering care in a resource-limited setting.

Fig 3: Learning objectives for the project experience. Teams will use these objectives as a guide as they progress in their projects and learning.

Conclusions

- **Resource limitations are a major barrier to quality improvement in community health centers, but student-led QI projects can help meet this need while providing valuable experience for students with diverse interests.**
- **Defining how projects create a mutually beneficial relationship between the clinic and students is a key factor in a successful proposal.**
- **Interdisciplinary groups of students can synergize to enhance projects. (For instance, pairing MPH students with interest in EMR implementation with MD/RN students with interests in health disparities).**