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Title: Quality in Quantity; Creating a longitudinal ambulatory QI curriculum in a 4+1 residency program

Abstract:

The ACGME recognizes the importance of patient safety and quality improvement (QI) competency for internal medicine residents. The University of Colorado Internal Medicine Residency Program has a 4+1 scheduling structure, and has selected the ambulatory blocks to house the QI curriculum.

We developed a didactic and experiential curriculum to deliver to Denver Health residents. This begins with a didactic presentation at the beginning of the academic year, allowing each resident to learn the basic concepts of QI early in the year.

The residents at each clinic site then work with the dedicated QI teaching faculty to design a group QI project that is transferred between cohorts each week. Each week, the faculty members meet with the residents at their site, and then the residents spend protected time during the week completing ongoing work on their clinic’s QI project. By the end of the year the residents have generated an idea for a QI project, completed a root-cause analysis, produced an aim statement, completed at least two PDSA (plan-do-study-act) cycles, collated the findings from the process into a comprehensive document, and presented the projects to fellow residents and clinic staff.

The curriculum also includes a mid-year Morbidity and Mortality discussion where the core faculties guide the residents through an analysis of an adverse event that occurred in an ambulatory setting.

By embracing the 4+1 structure and the unique characteristics of the three resident clinic sites at Denver Health, we were able to implement a comprehensive curriculum in QI. Our curriculum not only allows residents to progress in milestones related to systems-based practice and practice-based improvement, but also creates quality improvement initiatives to better patient care at each clinic site.

Moving forward we hope to continue to deliver a valuable QI curriculum that will allow residents to implement initiatives that improve patient care in each resident’s continuity clinic. Residents will carry those skills forward to the next steps in their careers, and continue to provide safe and high-quality patient care.