

Utilizing Evidence-based Needs Assessment to Inform the Successful Planning of Quality Improvement

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Abstract (limit to 1000 characters)

Quality Improvement (QI) in health care is a systematic approach to making changes that lead to better patient outcomes. Despite great interest in implementing QI, understanding what is required to support effective QI in health context is very challenging, due to limited knowledge of QI, time constraints, and difficulties for collecting evidence. At the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Medicine's Continuing Professional Development, we established an evaluation and improvement process to better understand health professionals; needs for QI, and collect multiple sources of evidence to identify them. Our preliminary analysis showed that over 79.2% of the respondents thought QI was valuable, one of the main motivators for their participation. However, the organizational and infrastructural challenges pertinent to the health environment, the group's time constraints and limited knowledge of QI, are still identified as the primary barriers to the planning of a successful QI program. This presentation will be of interest to those involved in QI efforts at public sector organizations.

Relevance to the conference (limit to 300 characters)

This presentation will demonstrate the use of evidence-informed approach to embed quality improvement in structure and processes in health care, with a focus on the innovative strategies which have been established to identify the perceived and unperceived needs for QI, and to specify what would work in what conditions and why.

Key words: quality improvement, planning, evidence-based