Resource List for Faculty & Trainees in Quality Improvement

Books


This textbook is now considered a “classic” by many in the field and serves as an accessible introduction to QI principles and methods. Authors review theory and then provide examples of how to identify a question, design a project plan and use PDSA cycles to achieve outcome change. It is written in readable language and is useful at all levels of learners – undergraduate medical students to faculty. Although many of the examples are non-medical, the information is very transferrable.


Written by a recognized industry expert in Lean Principles who explains essential tools (A3 & value stream mapping) borrowed from the Toyota Production System. This is the first book to do an extensive exploration of the A3 problem-solving tool in healthcare. Through case studies and actual A3s, this book illustrates the simplicity and completeness of the A3 tool and its applications to regulatory documentation as well as activities of daily work. It also includes a practical, easy-to-use workbook and has concepts illustrated with numerous A3s in various stages of development.


This book provides a basic introduction to Lean methodology, and the principles behind the Toyota Production System. It can be used a primer for how to apply this methodology to the healthcare setting, and includes many useful examples. Easy to read.

Web Modules

Institute of Healthcare Improvement – IHI Open School
http://www.ihi.org/offerings/IHIOpenSchool/overview/Pages/default.aspx
From their website: “The IHI Open School for Health Professions is an interprofessional educational community that gives students the skills to become change agents in health care improvement.” Membership is free to students from all health professions and the faculty responsible for teaching them. The website has online courses in safety, quality, and change leadership.

These courses can be combined to complete a certificate program. There is also a database of cases, videos, and teaching resources.

New this year, there are 2 new modules on teaching quality improvement & patient safety to trainees in graduate medical education programs.


NQF is a nonprofit organization that aims to improve quality by setting national priorities and goals, endorsing consensus standards for measurement, and promoting attainment of goals through education and outreach programs. You can search this website by your field to see if your field or area of clinical interest has any endorsed NQF quality standards.

Classic Articles


This piece is a nice introduction to the value of measurement and its impact on provider behavior and improvement. Using the example of cystic fibrosis and patient anecdotes at low and high performing centers the author skillfully lays out the inherent value in measurement and then reacting to the numbers. This article is well written and is a useful introductory or “hook” for novice learners.


A classic study – the investigators obtained medical records for over 6,000 outpatients across the U.S. Record reviews identified whether patients had received recommended care. The study’s conclusion was that Americans received ~1/2 of recommended care. The findings held true regardless of whether measures were separated out as for acute, chronic, or preventative care.
Good Articles for Trainees


List of Selected Journals that Publish Quality & Safety Work

Many journals are interested in publishing QI/PS programs as well as related curricula or educational endeavors. Impact factors vary and some journals only publish QI or education related work in specific series or issues. Exploring the journal website and reviewing recent issues can be useful in choosing the journal. A list of non-specialty specific journals that publish QI/PS work and related education are listed below. Many specialty journals also will publish this work as it relates to their field of health care delivery. Medical education journal will also publish curricular work in the area of quality and safety. Please note that these are not listed below.

American Journal of Medical Quality
http://ajm.sagepub.com

BMJ Quality & Safety
http://qshc.bmj.com

International Journal for Quality in Health Care;
http://intqhc.oxfordjournals.org

Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety

Journal for Healthcare Quality
http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/122585946