

Building capacity for quality improvement in primary care



Capacity for continuous quality improvement is essential to a learning health system. In 2025, the Family Medicine Residency Program at Memorial University implemented a new QI project requirement for its family medicine residents to better help them meet the competencies for QI set by the CFPC. Because QI is one of PRIIME's key areas of focus, we were approached by the program's EBM curriculum committee to help build capacity for planning and carrying out QI projects both within the EBM committee and among residents in the program.

We worked with the EBM committee to develop of a set of key resources to support the introduction of this core program requirement. This included a QI project protocol that is easily adaptable for other topic areas and supporting resources for the first, province-wide project - an annotated bibliography and a final report. The QI protocol included detailed explanations of each step of the QI process with reference to additional materials to aid understanding of how to complete each step and tools to support strategy selection etc.

The protocol was well-received by residents, evidenced by their outstanding performance on the project and their enthusiastic feedback. In their reflections, residents reported that the QI project was a helpful, valuable, and practical introduction to QI processes. They felt the structured protocol, and specific tools referenced therein, effectively demystified the QI process and how to break down clinical problems. The protocol gave residents a repeatable methodology and the confidence to integrate QI into their future practices to address real-world challenges and drive change. They also felt their experience helped them to view clinical issues from a systems perspective, moving beyond individual blame toward a mindset of continuous improvement. The protocol is currently being used as a template to guide protocol development for 2026 QI projects in the residency program.