



A Curriculum to Support Measurement for Improvement Training in Ireland

Gemma Moore, Michael Carton, Gráinne Cosgrove, Philip Crowley and Jennifer Martin
Quality Improvement Division, Health Service Executive

The Measurement for Improvement Curriculum

The Quality Improvement Division, Measurement for Improvement (MFI) Team have launched the *'Measurement for Improvement Curriculum; a reference document to support consistent Measurement for Improvement training in Irish healthcare'*.

The Curriculum has been developed to:

1. Map out the essential components of MFI training and education in Ireland at four levels of MFI expertise
2. Drive consistent, high quality and comprehensive MFI training and education
3. Make MFI training accessible to more staff working in the Irish health services

Framework for Improving Quality in our Health Service

Measurement is one of the six drivers of the *'Framework for Improving Quality in our Health Service'*² and complements the *'Improvement Knowledge and Skills Guide'*³ developed by the Quality Improvement Division.



What is Measurement for Improvement?

Measurement for Improvement (MFI) is the analysis and presentation of quantitative and qualitative data to identify opportunities for improvement and to demonstrate if a change has resulted in an improvement.

The purpose of MFI is to drive better decision making and support sustainable improvements in the quality of care.

MFI is used at different levels across the system – by frontline staff at PDSA (Plan, Do, Study, Act) level and Quality Improvement project level, and by organisations at system level.

The Seven Steps to Measurement for Improvement¹ and the Associated Tasks

1	Is there an Opportunity to Improve?	Use available data and information to know if an improvement is required		Harness subject matter expert knowledge of where improvement is required						
2	Choose Measures	Select what to measure			Identify most appropriate data source		Ensure you include both quantitative and qualitative measures			
3	Plan Measurement	Define operational definitions	Choose data collection method for each measure	Choose population	Determine frequency and duration of data collection	Establish baseline where possible	Decide which analytical tool to use	Plan measurement reporting	Ensure plan is ethically sound	Develop questions for qualitative measurement
4	Collect Data	Collect data according to measurement and data collection plans				Record data accurately		Record details of PDSA cycles		
5	Analyse & Display Data	Apply theory of SPC to constructing control charts and other illustrative charts				Analyse quantitative and qualitative data				
6	Interpret & Present Findings	Interpret the control charts using the five rules for identifying special cause variation	Review data and charts with subject matter expert		Combine a number of measures to give overall picture of the aspect of quality of care with reference to the aim		Ensure the patient voice is recognised and maintained in the family of measures		Interpret quantitative and qualitative findings	
7	Act on Findings	Review your measurement results with respect to your aim		Act appropriately to special cause and common cause variation	Use measurement results to identify further areas for improvement		Review and share measurement results with stakeholders		Plan for continued measurement	

Why is the Measurement for Improvement Curriculum Needed?

As one of the six drivers for the Framework for Improving Quality, it is important for all healthcare staff to value measurement and understand its importance in answering the question; *'how do know if a change has resulted in an improvement?'* which is addressed at level one in the Curriculum. A smaller number of frontline staff and leaders require a deeper understanding of measurement and the knowledge and skills to use measurement to effectively drive and support improvement efforts. The Curriculum has been developed in response to the challenge of meeting the training needs of staff with differing requirements and is reflected in its four step-wise levels of expertise.

The curriculum can be accessed online at: <http://bit.ly/2xyOTa6> We invite your feedback through a survey, available through this link.

References

¹Adapted from Guide to Measurement for Improvement, available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhsselect>

²QJD, HSE (2016) *Framework for Improving Quality in our Health Service. Part 1: Introducing the Framework*

³QJD, HSE (2017) *Improvement Knowledge and Skills Guide*

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