

Annotated Six-Step QUERI Process Model

Step 1: Select Diseases/Conditions/Patient Populations

- 1A. Identify and prioritize (via a formal ranking procedure) high risk/high burden clinical conditions
- 1B. Identify high priority clinical practices/outcomes within a selected condition

Step 2: Identify Evidence-Based Guidelines/Recommendations

- 2A. Identify evidence-based clinical practice guidelines
- 2B. Identify evidence-based clinical recommendations

Step 3: Measure and Diagnose Quality/Performance Gaps

- 3A. Measure existing practice patterns and outcomes across VHA and identify variations from evidence-based practices (quality, outcome and performance gaps)
- 3B. Identify determinants of current practices
- 3C. Diagnose quality gaps and identify barriers and facilitators to improvement

Step 4: Implement Improvement Programs

- 4A. Identify quality improvement strategies, programs and program components or tools to address quality gaps (e.g., via literature reviews)
- 4B. Develop or adapt quality improvement strategies, programs, program components or tools (e.g., educational resources, decision support tools) to address quality gaps
- 4C. Implement quality improvement strategies and programs to address quality gaps

Step 5/6: Evaluate Improvement Programs

5. Assess improvement program feasibility, implementation and impacts on patient, family and system outcomes
6. Assess improvement program impacts on health related quality of life (HRQOL)

Step M: Develop Measures, Methods and Data Resources

- M1. Develop and/or evaluate patient registries, cohort databases, data warehouses
- M2. Develop and/or evaluate case-finding or screening tools
- M3. Develop and/or evaluate structure, process or outcome measures
- M4. Develop and/or evaluate organizational structure/system, clinical practice, utilization or outcome databases

Step C: Develop Clinical Evidence

- C1. Develop evidence-based clinical interventions, recommendations (clinical research)
- C2. Develop evidence-based health services interventions (health services research)

Note: Step M and C projects are considered to be outside the core QUERI process, although they support this process. Step C projects are generally funded through the ORD clinical science (CSR&D) and health services (HSR&D) research and development programs, rather than through QUERI. Certain Step M projects may be conducted through QUERI if viewed as critical for subsequent QUERI steps.