



This Quality Improvement (QI) Starter Kit is a list of resources that can help support your QI work. Share this with new employees, new quality improvement team members, leadership, and others to get them up to speed on QI. You can also use this kit with existing team members as a source of helpful tools and resources.

Quality Improvement Fundamentals

Need a refresher on quality improvement? We recommend:

1. Stratix Health's "[Quality Improvement Basics](#)" Course, which includes short videos on a variety of QI topics. A YouTube playlist of the videos can be found [here](#).
2. The British Medical Journal, a peer-reviewed medical journal, offers "[How to Get Started in Quality Improvement](#)," an article that delves into the skills, approaches, and support needed for successful quality improvement.

Measuring Quality Improvement

Not sure how to measure quality improvement? We recommend:

1. The National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ) "[QI Tips: Developing a Successful Measurement Strategy and Worksheet](#)" provides thoughtful questions about measurement and includes a worksheet to track a "family of measures."
2. Safety Net's Dental Clinic Manual provides a wealth of information, examples, and templates for quality measurement (Section 3) and data collection/analysis (Section 4). You can access the manual [here](#).

Tools to Get You Started

Wondering which tool to use?

1. Driver Diagrams. A driver diagram is a visual explanation of various factors that "drive" the aim of a project. For a short explanation, videos, and template, check out Institute for Healthcare Improvements' (IHI) [toolbox essential](#). An example of a driver diagram can be found [here](#).
2. Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA). A PDSA is a common method of testing quality improvement practices. AFL Enterprises, LLC provides a brief overview and helpful example. For an in-depth look at PDSAs, as well as a PDSA worksheet, check out Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) [toolkit](#). NICHQ proves useful insights for using PDSAs, some of which can be assessed [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).
3. Process Flowcharts. A flowchart is a way to visually display the steps of the process to identify inefficiencies and improve. IHI considers a flowchart an essential tool in its toolbox and gives a [definition](#), [videos](#), and [downloadable template](#).
4. Swimlane Diagrams. Swimlane diagrams are helpful in identifying the roles of each stakeholder in an organization or process. For more information, check out Lucidchart's article. If you're curious to try your hand at a swimlane diagram, click [here](#)!

Additional Resources

1. [AFL Enterprises, LLC website](#)
2. [IHI Open School curriculum](#)
3. [Colorado Department of Local Public Health & Environmental Resources' Quality Improvement Trainings](#)
4. [QI courses found on the TRAIN Learning Network](#)

Appendix of Resource Links

<https://stratishealth.org/toolkit/quality-improvement-basics/>
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrX6m5cyp8hCwx18gPoJUjCFa6iy05p4R>
<https://www.bmj.com/content/364/bmj.k5437>
<https://bit.ly/4hrnie1>
<https://www.dentalclinicmanual.com/5-quality/index.php>
<https://www.ihl.org/resources/tools/driver-diagram#downloads>
<https://bit.ly/48unaGJ>
<https://www.ahrq.gov/health-literacy/improve/precautions/tool2b.html>
<https://bit.ly/3YMldSx>
<https://bit.ly/3YoeMEO>
<https://nichq.org/blog/use-evaluation-guide-pdsas-rather-derail-them>
<https://www.ihl.org/resources/tools/flowchart>
<https://www.lucidchart.com/pages/tutorial/swimlane-diagram#discoveryTop>
<https://bit.ly/3NRQldo>
<https://www.afl.enterprises/>
<https://www.ihl.org/education/ihl-open-school>
<https://bit.ly/3UWVswT>
<https://www.train.org/main/search?query=%22quality%20improvement%22&type=course>