An Overview of the ACS Quality Framework

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1

Disclosures

No disclosures

2

ACS Quality Framework

• Why do we need a Framework?

• What is the Quality Framework?

• Framework Components and Criteria

• Toolkit and other resources

3

Development of the Quality Framework

- ACS Quality Programs include quality improvement in their standards.
- However, quality improvement standards typically have the highest rate of deficiency.
- In February 2021, a cross-College committee evaluated 50 projects from program participants to understand how quality improvement is being conducted.
- The team found opportunities for improvement in project planning and documentation.

  - **This team developed a framework to guide hospitals in their quality improvement work.**

4

3 Types of Quality Improvement Initiatives

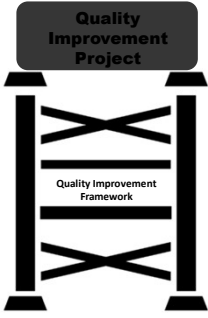| Large-Scale Improvements	Small-Scale Improvements	Individual-Scale Improvements
• Published in NEJM, JAMA • Well-funded, well-resourced • Often have trained experts to lead the efforts • IRB-approved initiatives	• Local efforts, e.g., what works at an academic setting doesn't work at a community hospital) • Usually within a service line, group of surgeons, type of operations • Not an initiative across the entire hospital • Usually led by surgeons, quality improvement professionals, program staff	• Self-improvement initiatives, e.g., related to surgical techniques, use of HER, etc. • No data collection

5

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6

ACS Quality Framework

- Support for small-scale projects
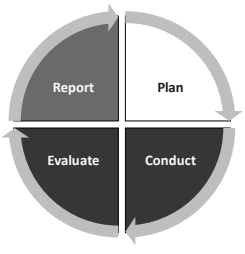
- Components and Criteria

- Toolkit

Quality Improvement Project

Quality Improvement Framework

7

How Well Is Surgical Improvement Being Conducted? Evaluation of 50 Local Surgery-Related Improvement Efforts

Three Observations for Improving Efforts in Surgical Quality Improvement

8

What is the Quality Framework?

- The **purpose** of the Quality Framework is to improve quality improvement.

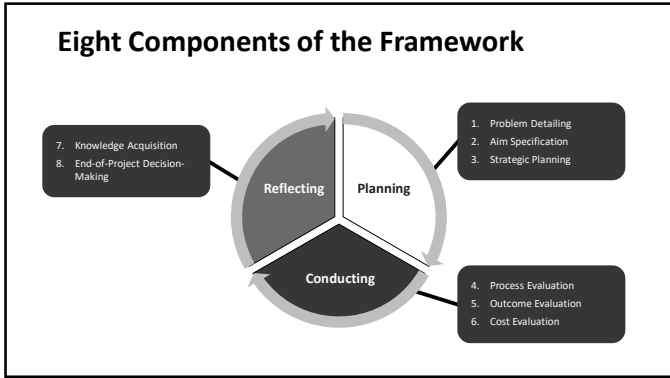- The **aim** is to help hospitals plan, conduct, evaluate, and report on quality improvement projects.

The Framework can:

- help quality improvement teams ensure their projects are comprehensive and effective.
- guide teams in writing detailed and thorough reports on their quality improvement projects.

It is a process-neutral tool that can be used to support any quality improvement methodology, such as Lean or Six Sigma.
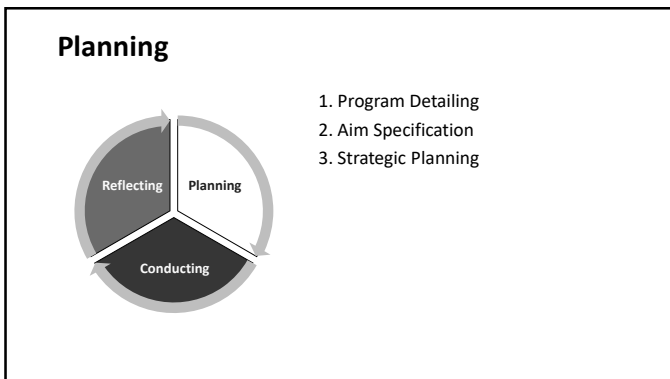
Report | Plan
Evaluate | Conduct

9

Eight Components of the Framework

7. Knowledge Acquisition
8. End-of-Project Decision-Making

Reflecting   Planning

Conducting

1. Problem Detailing
2. Aim Specification
3. Strategic Planning

4. Process Evaluation
5. Outcome Evaluation
6. Cost Evaluation

10

It's all in the Planning

- *When you fail to plan, you plan to fail.*
- *~Benjamin Franklin*

11

Planning

Reflecting   Planning

Conducting

1. Program Detailing
2. Aim Specification
3. Strategic Planning

12

Planning Components 1, 2, & 3 and Criteria

Component #1: Problem Detailing	Component #2: Aim Specification	Component #3: Strategic Planning
1.1 Local Issue	2.1 Specific	3.1 Existing Research
1.2 Problem Statement	2.2 Measurable	3.2 Description of Intervention
1.3 Baseline Data	2.3 Achievable	3.3 Intervention Rationale
1.4 Local Impact	2.4 Relevant	3.4 Description of Implementation Strategies
1.5 Patient Input	2.5 Timely	3.5 Implementation Strategies Rationale
1.6 Improvement Team		3.6 Stakeholder Involvement
1.7 Internal Stakeholders		3.7 Intervention Resources
1.8 External Stakeholders		3.8 Implementation Strategy Resources
		3.9 Intervention Data
		3.10 Possible Limitations and Challenges of the Intervention

13

Planning

Reflecting · Planning · Conducting

- Program Detailing
Clearly defined, why current gap exists
Analyze who/what/when/where/how
Perspectives from all key stakeholders

- Aim Specification
SMART goal format
Goals should be understandable to clinical teams and leadership

- Strategic Planning
Identify all components of intervention
How to locally integrate
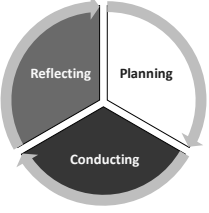Clarify rationale to prepare for discussions
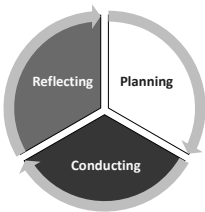Anticipate needs

14

15

16

Conducting

- Process Evaluation
  - Timeline
  - How is our implementation of the plan?
  - Process measure results
- Outcome Evaluation
  - Results and outcome measures
  - Are the expected outcomes occurring?
  - Limitations/unintended consequences
- Cost Evaluation
  - Cost of the project
  - FTE, resources, budgets
  - Value – team perspective and stakeholders
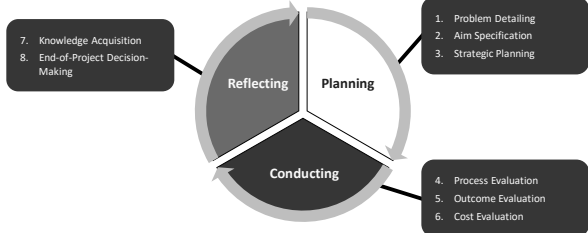 - Feedback from team and stakeholders

17

18

Reflection

- Knowledge Acquisition
  - What went well? What didn't meet expectations?
  - Share results with stakeholders

- End of Project Decision Making
  - Future actions – revisions, scale, de-implement
  - Plan going forward
    - Who will manage?
    - Sustain change

Reflecting | Planning

Conducting

19

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Reflecting | Planning

Conducting

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20

Key Takeaways

- ACS Quality Framework improves improvement done by hospitals on a small, local scale
- 8 Components

Planning	Conduction	Reflecting
Problem Detailing	Process Outcome	Knowledge acquisition
Aim Specification	Outcome Evaluation	End of Project Planning
Strategic Planning	Cost Evaluation	

- Framework can function within any Process Improvement Methodology
- Online resources
  - https://www.facs.org/quality-programs/quality-framework/

21

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22

Thank you

Questions will be addressed during the Q and A period
at the end of the session.

23