Quality Improvement (QI) Qualified Collaborative Fall 2025
Call for Applications | Due July 11, 2025

NS Health Quality Improvement Qualified Collaborative

Nova Scotia Health is committed to becoming a high-performing learning system, aligned with Action for Health: A Strategic Plan 2022-2026 and our Operational Excellence model.

To support this achievement, the Quality Improvement & Safety team has designed the QI Qualified Collaborative to build the capability of leaders, physicians, and patient family advisors to ensure they have the knowledge, skill, and support necessary to use continuous improvement methods to improve care and outcomes for all Nova Scotians. The Nova Scotia Health Quality Improvement Approach is evidence-based and built on the foundation of rigorous quality improvement methodologies, tools, and measurement. It is rooted in two core models, the Model for Improvement (IHI) and Highly Adoptable Improvement Model (2022).

Objectives of the QI Qualified Collaborative

Between September and March, teams will learn how to:

- Identify evidence-based problems
- Set measurable aims
- Apply PDSA cycles and change management tools
- Use run charts to share results
- Sustain gains and spread improvements
- Share lessons across NS Health

Quality Improvement (QI) initiatives have a well-defined aim statement change idea(s), selected/developed by a QI team, who work collaboratively to implement time-bounded small tests of change (plan-do-study-act cycles) which require dedicated human and/or financial resources, and continuous measurement to determine if the change is an improvement.

Participation Requirements

- **Eligibility:** NS Health leaders, physicians, and patient/family advisors
- **Priority:** Directors, managers, embedded QI leaders
- **Approval:** Director/Department head approval
  - *Note: If you are in a director/manager/department head position, please indicate your direct supervisor*
- **Pre-application Webinar:** Must attend one of three (see below)
- **Apply:** QI Collaborative Expression of Interest E-Form due July 11, 2025
- **Time Commitment:** ~60–90 hours total over several months (sessions: 15 hrs; biweekly coaching: 15 hrs; and project work: 30-60 hrs)
- **Initiative Focus:** An identified priority / challenge on which to focus the QI initiative that is aligned with NS Health's True North Priorities
- **Oversight:** Project must fall under an official QI structure (i.e. Quality Team) to ensure it is protected under the Quality-improvement Information Protection Act.

How the QI Qualified Collaborative Works

- Tackle an identified priority problem with coaching support from September to March
- Join 7 virtual learning sessions (1.5–2 hrs each, 1300–1500pm) led by QI Coaches and NSH experts. Dates sent upon acceptance. **In keeping with CMA Guidelines, program content and selection of speakers are the responsibility of the planning committee. Support is directed toward the costs of the course and not to individual speakers.*
- Collaborate with a local team to lead a QI initiative. *Note: The provincial QI and Culture team encourages your improvement team to maximize existing resources and capabilities, as the collaborative does not provide additional funding or human resources.*
- Attend biweekly coaching sessions with QI leaders
- Receive peer support from fellow participants
- Submit final storyboard to a local QI Summit
- Join a 6-month post-collaborative follow-up
- To be eligible to receive your NSH QI Qualified certificate/pin, and continuing education credits, participants must attend all learning sessions, coaching calls, post a storyboard on the QI Hub and present to the QIS Council/Team providing oversight
- An application has been submitted to Dalhousie University Continuing Professional Development and Medical Education to designate this as continuing professional development (~22.75 hours)

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Selection Criteria

- Manager/director support
- Geographic/service representation
- Priority to QI-responsible roles
- Alignment with NS Health strategic priorities
- 1 submission per team. Additional team members may attend learning sessions.
- If there is more interest than can be accommodated in this collaborative, you are encouraged to reapply.
- A QI Initiative is different than that of a Clinical/Service Improvement Projects (CIPs). CIPs do not involve testing of change ideas through use of quality improvement methodologies (PDSA cycles, continuous measurement, etc). This work could include, but is not limited to, retrospective chart reviews, program evaluation, etc.

For Questions, Ask One of the QI Collaborative Coaches

Central Zone Improvement Coaches: Daraspreet Singh & Carolyn Smith | Leader, Quality Improvement & Safety | Daraspreet.Singh@nshealth.ca
Northern Zone Improvement Coach: Sarah Byrne | Leader, Quality Improvement & Safety | Sarah.Byrne@nshealth.ca
Eastern Zone: Improvement Coaches: Wendy DeCoste & Amy MacDonald | Leader, Quality Improvement & Safety | Amy.Macdonald3@nshealth.ca
Western Zone Improvement Coach: Bradley Osmond | Leader, Quality Improvement & Safety | Bradley.Osmond@nshealth.ca

Key Dates

- **Call for Expressions of Interest launches:** June 10, 2025
- **Mandatory Pre-Application Webinars:**
  - June 16 from 1 to 2 p.m. Register Here
  - June 23 from 2 to 3 p.m. Register Here
  - July 7 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Register Here
- **Call for Expressions of Interest Closes:** July 11, 2025
- **Submission Decisions:** August 1, 2025