Selecting a QI Project for MOC Part IV Designation

What should you consider in deciding whether to apply for Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part IV credit to be designated for a quality improvement (QI) project? How do you select among projects recently completed, under way, or ready to start?

Consider the following factors:

1. Institute of Medicine Quality dimensions   
 • Does the project address one or more of the following dimensions of patient care: safety,   
 effectiveness, efficiency, equity, timeliness, patient-centeredness?

2. Substantive yet clear   
 • Can you describe a discrete project? (Within a program of linked efforts, what is a specific project?)   
 • Are two formal pre-post cycles (PDSA) of study appropriate?   
 • Can the project be described clearly in an application for MOC Part IV designation and in reports?   
 • Can physicians easily understand it so they can reflect on their participation and future plans?   
  
3. Importance of the project   
 • Do participating physicians view the project as an important priority in improving patient care?   
 • Do health care leaders view the project as an important priority in improving patient care?

4. Meaningful physician participation   
 • Is the QI project to benefit the physician’s patients and related to the physician’s clinical practice?   
 • Are physicians actively involved in the QI effort, including at a minimum:   
 - Working with care team members to plan and implement interventions?   
 - Interpreting performance data to assess the impact of the interventions?   
 - Making appropriate course corrections in the improvement project?   
 • Are they active in the project for the minimum duration required by the project?   
 • Are they able to personally reflect on the activity, describing the change that was performed in   
 their practice and how it affected the way care is delivered?   
 • Can meaningful participation be ensured for those who request credit?

5. Project lead(s)   
 • Will the project lead perform the additional requirements associated with Part IV credit (project application, participation confirmation, report submission)?   
 • Will this effort help the project lead prepare presentations and publications about the project?

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