

## Selecting a QI Project for MOC Designation (ABMS IHHC, NCCPA PI-CME)

*What should you consider in deciding whether to apply for Maintenance of Certification (MOC) 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. For further information, contact:*

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### 1. Participating providers – physicians and physician assistants

- Which providers will be involved? (For physicians, requirements for Part IV [now referred to as IHHC] vary by specialty.)
- Do they need MOC credit for QI? (Does their board have an easy alternative available? Have they already met their current requirement?)

### 2. 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?

### 3. Substantive yet clear

- Can you describe a discrete project? (Within a program of linked efforts, what is a specific project?)
- Are formal pre-post cycles (PDCA) of study and checking appropriate?
- Can the project be described clearly in an application for Part IV designation and in reports?
- Can participants easily understand it so they can reflect on their participation and future plans?

### 4. Importance of the project

- Do participants 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?

### 5. Meaningful participation

- Is the QI project to benefit the provider's patients and related to the provider's clinical practice?
- Are providers actively involved in the QI effort, including:
  1. Identify and/or acknowledge a gap(s) in outcomes or in care delivery.
  2. Identify and/or review data related to the gap(s).
  3. Identify or acknowledge appropriate intervention(s) designed to improve the gap(s), OR participate in the planning and selection of intervention(s) designed to improve the gap(s).
  4. Implement intervention(s) for a timeframe appropriate to addressing the gap(s), OR monitor and manage implementation of intervention(s) for a timeframe appropriate to addressing the gap(s).
  5. Review post-intervention data related to the gap(s).
  6. Reflect on outcomes to determine whether the intervention(s) resulted in improvement. If no improvement occurs after an intervention, participants must reflect on why no improvement occurred. Are providers able to 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 validated for those who request MOC?

### 6. 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?