

# Quality Improvement Basics

## Data Basics Example

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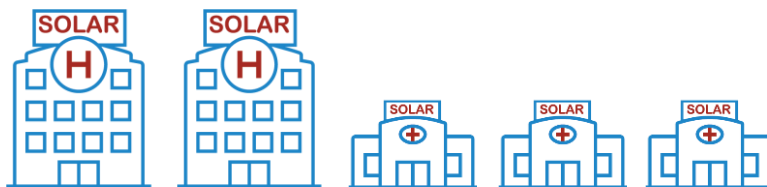


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## Solar Health System



- The Leadership team at Solar Health System wants the QI department to systematically measure, monitor, and improve rates of cancer outcomes within their three clinics and two hospitals.
  - Sun Hospital
  - Moon Hospital
  - Clinic Mercury
  - Clinic Venus
  - Clinic Mars



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## Quantitative Data

%

*What percent of Solar Health patients have a cancer diagnosis?*

?  
70,000

*How many of Solar's 70,000 patient lives are lost to breast cancer each year?*



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## Qualitative Data



*What do cancer rates look like by:*

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Primary language spoken



*What treatments or pathways give patients the best quality of life?*



*What barriers do patients encounter in their ability to receive screenings/treatment?*



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## Outcome Measures

In the near term and long-term, what metrics directly impact our goal?



*Cancer Deaths Prevented and Lives Saved*



*Rate of toxicity/complications (post-surgery, post-radiotherapy, post-chemotherapy)*



*1,2,5-year survival*



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## Process Measures

Can be used as a proxy for outcome measures when outcome is difficult to measure or occurs over a long period



### **Screening Rates**

*Performing breast cancer screening does not improve cancer rates but could potentially improve mortality rates if the disease is caught early and the patient is treated timely and effectively.*



### **Diagnostic/Biopsy Referral**

*How soon after abnormal screening results is a patient able to get in to see a specialist for further diagnostics/biopsy?*



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## In Summary

- Measuring the effectiveness of healthcare interventions is crucial to any health system. A well-rounded understanding is essential, which is where both quantitative and qualitative data for process and outcome measures come into play.
- The Solar Health team has two powerful tools for their QI project, quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data gives them numbers and metrics, while qualitative data provides context and insights. By using both, they get a more holistic view.
- By selecting both process and outcome measures, the QI team can better understand the steps taken to achieve their goals, as well as the actual results.

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**Stratis Health is a nonprofit organization that leads collaboration and innovation in health care quality and safety and serves as a trusted expert in facilitating improvement for people and communities.**

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