Quality Improvement Basics
Data Collection and Monitoring

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Objectives

After completing this module, participants will be able to

- Ask questions to help select appropriate measures for a quality project
- Discuss data collection method options
- Develop a data collection and monitoring plan

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Considering Your Measurement Strategy

- What is the problem you have identified and how do you know it is a problem?
- What can you measure that will help you evaluate if your interventions had an impact and if the interventions are being implemented as intended?
- Who is interested in this problem and what information or data will be most meaningful to them?
- Are you able to collect the desired data?

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Data Collection and Monitoring Plan

bit.ly/QI-Basics-Data-Collection-and-Monitoring-Plan

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Name and Define the Measures

- Measure name
- Definition
  - Including population and exclusions
  - Numerator
  - Denominator

Data Collection Strategy

	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
Who is collecting the data?	Physician	Survey vendor	Nurses
When are they collecting it?	Patient encounters	Weekly	Daily rounds
How are they collecting it?	Data entry	Phone surveys	Paper checklists
Where is it being kept?	EHR	Third-party platform	Charge nurse collection

Data Collection Methods

- Tally sheets
- Checklists
- Questionnaires
- Feedback interviews
- Observation
- Daily reviews

- Chart audit
- Data obtained from existing databases and systems

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Sampling

- May speed learning and improvement
- Need enough data to make a sensible judgment about the process or system
- Sampling involves deciding how much and which data to collect to aid the improvement effort
  - Sometimes it makes sense to collect all the data (small numbers)
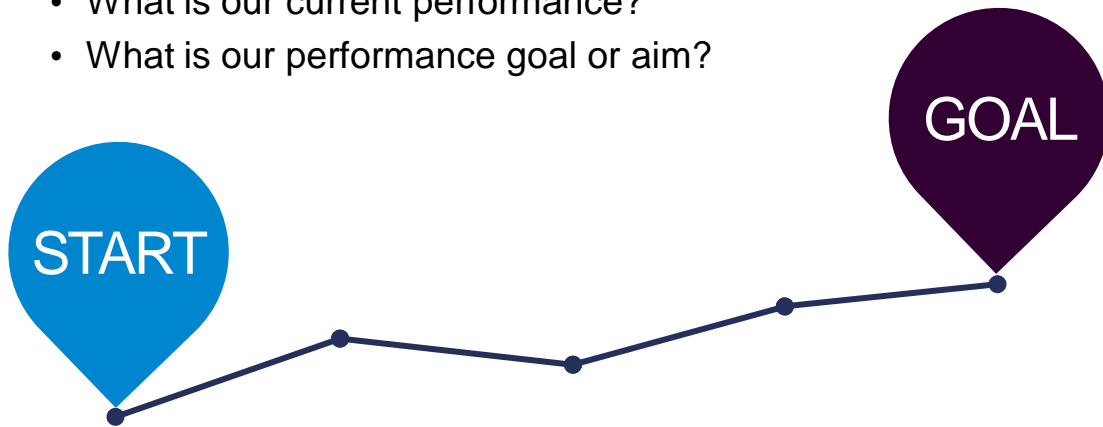 - When working with a great deal of data, it makes sense to sample

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Baseline Performance and Goal

- What is our current performance?
- What is our performance goal or aim?

Monitoring Plan

- Who is responsible for monitoring the measure?
  - Who will ensure the team monitors performance on a routine basis
- How frequently will the data be monitored?
  - Goal is to understand the impact of the change
- And for how long?
  - Generally, longer than you would like
  - Need to make sure process change and impact are sustained

Data Display and Stratification

- How will you track and display data findings?
- What, if any, stratification will be applied when analyzing performance?

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In Summary

- Teams can consider key questions to help in identifying measures for their quality projects including – What is the purpose in collecting data? What are we trying to understand? Who will use the data and how?
- There are numerous methods available for collecting data with differing levels of resources needed.
- Developing a data collection and monitoring strategy involves answering questions that will clarify the who, what, where, when, and how of data collection and monitoring activities.

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