**Practice Quality Improvement (PQI) Program**

Collaborating to Engage Child Health Providers in Data-Driven Quality Improvement

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**BACKGROUND**

Connecticut Children's Medical Center became an ABP Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part 4 Portfolio Sponsor in May 2013 in order to meet the QI/MOC needs of child health providers with projects that match their interests and are relevant to their practice. The portfolio is managed by the Connecticut Children’s PQI Program and includes 21 QI/MOC projects (see Fig. 1).

The program’s strategic placement within Connecticut Children’s, as well as a strong partnership with the Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut, Inc. (CHDI), have contributed to its success with physician engagement and project development.

PQI’s partnerships have allowed it to develop projects that extend beyond the child health sector (See Fig. 2).

**ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION**

PQI is strategically housed within the Department of Academic Administration and the Connecticut Children’s Office for Community Child Health (the Office).

- Academic Administration makes internal physician champions accessible to PQI.
- This relationship led to a partnership with the Continuing Medical Education (CME) Program, resulting in the ability to offer CME credits for each QI/MOC project.
- 45 internal physicians have received credit for completing a hospital-based QI/MOC project.
- PQI has developed 9 projects with internal physician champions’ support.

**OFFICE FOR COMMUNITY CHILD HEALTH**

- PQI is one of the Office’s 14 community-oriented programs.
- This relationship has led to collaboration with other Office programs, such as the Help Me Grow® (HMG) National Center, Easy Breathing®, and Co-Management, in order to develop and implement QI projects.
- The infrastructure of QInsight, PQI’s data entry and reporting system, has been leveraged to create data collection and reporting tools for two Office programs.
- 134 community-based physicians have received credit for completing a QI/MOC project.
- PQI has developed 12 projects with support from the Office and its programs.

**CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF CONNECTICUT, INC.**

- CHDI developed the Educating Practices in the Community (EPI) program, a child health provider outreach and training program based on the academic detailing model.
- PQI and CHDI have created 6 QI/MOC projects for community physicians.
- Each project extends from EPI modules that focus on community child health topics. CHDI provides content expertise for project development and implementation.
- CHDI has relationships with a broad network of practices throughout the state, providing an excellent avenue for PQI’s community physician engagement efforts.
- Through CHDI, PQI partners with Connecticut’s Person-Centered Medical Home Glide Path program to offer practices the tools and infrastructure needed to conduct continuous quality improvement.
- 71 community-based physicians have received credit for completing a QI/MOC project related to an EPI module.

**LESSONS LEARNED**

- A strong, established infrastructure for QI work, in conjunction with institutional buy-in, provides a solid foundation for programmatic growth.
- Leveraging existing expertise and networks is key to efficient project development and physician engagement.
- PQI’s capacity can be leveraged to engage physicians in QI work that is required for National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Certification.
- To support the advancement of children’s optimal health development, PQI must prioritize cross-sector collaboration and developing projects that address critical, contemporary health issues.

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**The Lead Screening QI/MOC project aims to increase universal blood lead screening and connection to community-based resources.**

**The Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect QI/MOC project aims to increase utilization of a suspected physical abuse pathway.**

**The Help Me Grow® QI/MOC project aims to increase developmental surveillance, screening, and linkage of children to services.**

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Fig. 1: PQI Project Portfolio

Fig. 2: Cross-Sector Engagement