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**NEWS**  
February 15, 2024

### **In this issue**

- [Workgroup updates](#)
  - [EQIC events](#)
  - [Announcements](#)
  - [Education](#)
-

## Workgroup updates

Thank you for your continued participation in EQIC's affinity [workgroup meetings](#).

This issue of *EQIC News* covers the most recent workgroup meetings for sepsis, pressure injuries, infections and adverse drug events/opioid prescribing. Summaries for health equity, falls, readmissions and patient and family engagement workgroups are shared in alternating issues.

### Sepsis

Sepsis Alliance staff joined the Feb. 6 meeting and discussed how to develop nursing/sepsis coordinator proficiency. Hospital teams shared examples of sepsis education or competency programs within their facilities.

Workgroup members also discussed how their sepsis coordinator roles or programs are structured to support sepsis improvement activities. Participants shared challenges and opportunities to develop new or existing education for frontline staff and providers. Several hospitals have robust hospital or system-wide offerings for onboarding and annual competencies through various learning modalities.

Members shared sepsis workgroup roadmap activity updates. Highlights include working closely with quality leadership and multidisciplinary teams to engage sepsis champions, establishing new committees, using sepsis power plans and handoff tools to improve bundle compliance, creating dashboards, conducting needs assessments and expanding outreach to strengthen community awareness.

Staff shared EQIC's new [toolkit](#) and [value stream map](#) to encourage frontline staff engagement in quality improvement and ongoing sepsis improvement efforts. If hospital teams have additional feedback for the Sepsis Alliance related to a specific focus or topic area, please email it to Nicole Ford, project manager, at [nford@hanys.org](mailto:nford@hanys.org).

### Pressure injuries

At the Feb. 7 meeting, hospitals reviewed the EQIC pressure injury rapid-cycle improvement program and identified gaps and opportunities for improvement. The group discussed skin failure vs. pressure injury and avoidable vs. unavoidable skin breakdown. This [three-part tool](#) can help determine if skin breakdown is a pressure injury or skin failure. Participants also discussed identifying [end-of-life skin failure](#).

Workplans to decrease PI rates or maintain zero in 2024 include increasing the number of physician champions, adding monthly educational training for providers, providing education to certified nursing assistants and correct positioning. Other interventions include using a clinical nurse leader to focus on wound care best practices and implementing Medline products and education to build *Skin Matters*<sup>™</sup> and *Skin Champion*<sup>™</sup> programs.

To sustain the change and improvements made, hospitals will continue to provide PI education, conduct wound care huddles, build reports in Epic to identify consults and continue monthly multidisciplinary committee meetings.

### Infections

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 12, at 1 p.m.

### Adverse drug events/opioid prescribing

This workgroup met on Feb. 14; a summary will be shared in an upcoming newsletter.

## EQIC events

### New QI webinar series begins next month

EQIC is pleased to present our 2024 quality improvement webinar series, [Maintaining and sustaining a highly reliable quality improvement strategy](#). These sessions will:

- orient and refresh quality teams on the fundamentals of a strong quality improvement strategy; and
- build knowledge to strengthen the skills and confidence of hospital staff to sustain ongoing patient safety work.

Registration provides access to all three sessions. EQIC encourages all levels of hospital teams to participate.

Tuesday, March 26

#### **Session 1: Unit-based safety and high reliability**

Noon - 1 p.m.

Wednesday, May 29

#### **Session 2: Closing the gap: Structures, processes and outcomes**

1 - 2 p.m.

Wednesday, June 26

#### **Session 3: Data in action: Ready, set, go!**

1 - 2 p.m.

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## Announcements

### We want to hear from you: Share your QI success stories!

EQIC is calling for success story submissions to recognize quality improvement initiatives by our participating hospitals. Success stories are QI, patient safety and/or care transition initiatives in which results can be measured through quantitative data.

The stories will be shared among the collaborative, CMS and other CMS QI contractors. Interested hospitals should complete this [submission form](#) and send it to [eqic@hanys.org](mailto:eqic@hanys.org) by 5 p.m. on March 15.

### EQIC data reminder

All data and reports on the EQIC website are to be used solely for the purpose of internal quality improvement processes and shall not be shared with any third party without the prior written consent of EQIC. Please contact [Cathleen Wright](#), director, statewide hospital quality improvement, with any questions.

## Education

**Thursday, March 14**

**[Ready Set Go! Bridging the gaps to revolutionize care transitions](#)**

**1 - 2 p.m.**

Improving care transitions requires planning and partnership from admission to discharge. During this month's CMS Community of Practice call, speakers will share *Ready Set Go!*, a new tool to help hospitals achieve a smooth, no-surprises discharge. Hospital staff and patient family partners designed the tool to address and connect the critical processes that take place between admission planning, bedside rounding and discharge planning to reduce hospital readmissions.

*Ready Set Go!* includes key insights and five embedded tools to enhance current hospital processes.

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### Questions?

Please contact [Cathleen Wright](#) or your [EQIC project manager](#) with any questions.

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