

Sharing Results Internally & Beyond



FAQ 8 in a series committed to assisting the HOPA membership along the quality improvement journey

Why should hematology/oncology pharmacists share the results of their quality improvement projects?

Pharmacists are integral members of QI initiative teams, yet few of these projects make it to publication. A study conducted from 2016 - 2019 found that just 6% of local QI projects submitted for an internal presentation were published in peer-reviewed journals. It is important to share these results widely!

Reasons to Publish



Perseverance: Setting an early goal for publishing could motivate interdisciplinary teams to persist through project challenges



Knowledge: Healthcare professionals can learn from each other's quality improvement efforts



Growth: Publication provides opportunities for professional networking, collaboration, and career development

QI Manuscript: Tips & Tricks

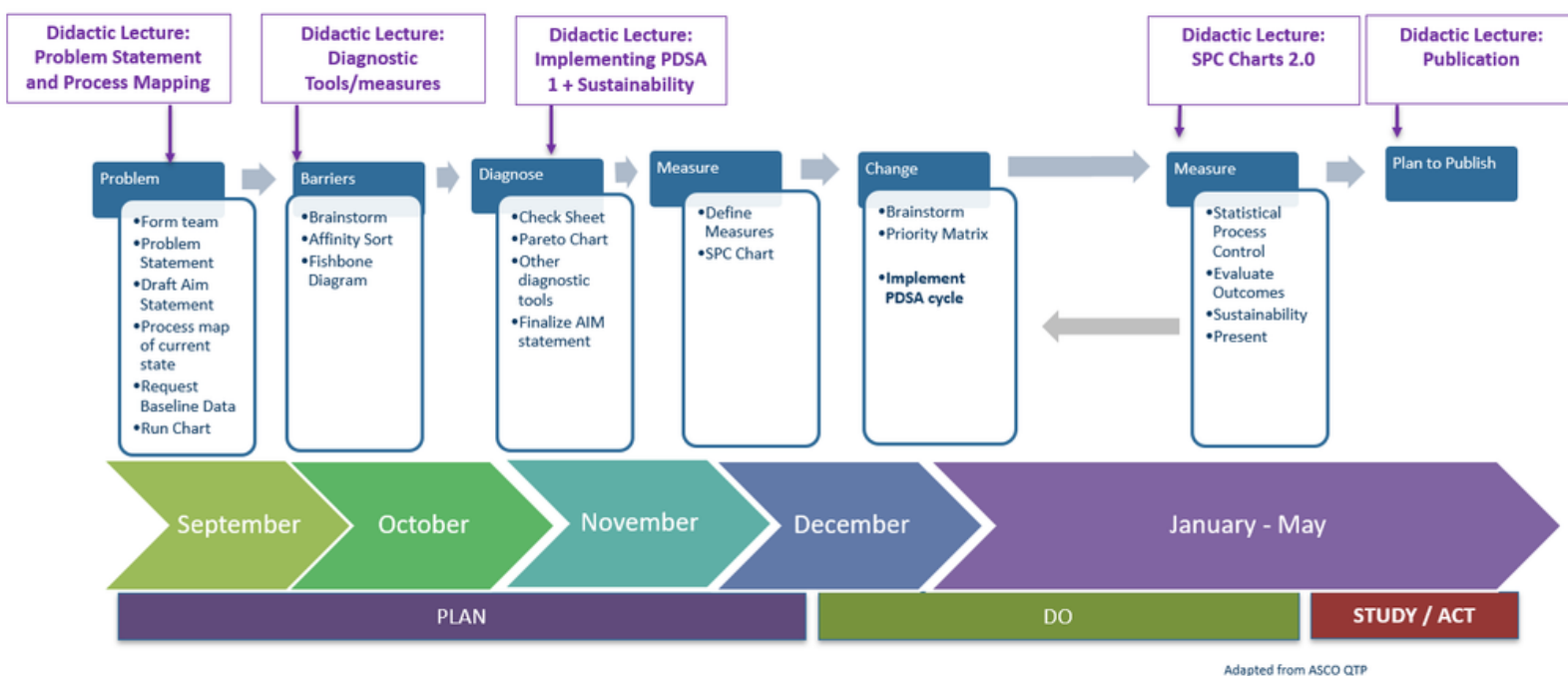
Quality research differs substantially from traditional research; the manuscript of a QI project should not mimic a traditional research manuscript too closely. Consider the following points and figures below as you begin drafting your QI project manuscript.

The aim is to improve a process with continuous measurement through PDSA cycles which demonstrate sustained improvement.

QI projects with negative or unexpected outcomes are still valuable and worth sharing as a learning experience.

Involve the full interdisciplinary team throughout the writing process.

If pharmacy residents are participating, completing at least one full PDSA cycle within the limited time frame of a residency year can be challenging. To overcome this, it is important to establish strict timeline early on and adhere closely to project milestones.



Utilize available resources to ensure that your manuscript meets high standards and effectively demonstrates your quality work. One such resource is the Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence (SQiRE), which was first published in 2008 and is undergoing regular improvements.

SQiRE 2.0 Summary for Manuscript Publication	
Manuscript Section	Description
Title and Abstract	● Indicate manuscript is about an initiative to improve healthcare ● Provide adequate summary of key information in the abstract to assist in searching and indexing
Introduction	● <i>Why did you start this project?</i> ● Provide a problem description, available knowledge, rationale, and specific aims
Methods	● <i>What did you do to complete this project?</i> ● Report context, description of intervention(s), approach used to assess impact of interventions, measures chosen for studying processes and outcomes ● Analyze qualitative and quantitative methods used to draw conclusions from the data and provide methods for understanding variation within the data ● Incorporate ethical considerations and how they were addressed, including formal ethics review and potential conflicts of interest
Results	● <i>What did you find in this study?</i> ● Report initial steps of the intervention(s) and their evolution over time, details of the process measures and outcome, and contextual elements that interacted with the intervention(s) ● Elaborate on observed associations, unintended consequences (such as unexpected benefits, problems/failures), or missing data
Discussion	● <i>What does it all mean?</i> ● Summarize key findings, including relevance to rationale and specific aims, and discuss strengths and limitations ● Interpret results and compare findings to other publications ● Explain project impact on healthcare system ● Conclude sustainability, potential spread of processes to other contexts, implications on practice/generalizability to other areas, and suggested next steps
Conclusion	● Report funding sources ● Cite SQiRE if used to write a manuscript

Recommended Elements for QI Publication & Common Pitfalls		
Manuscript Section	Elements	Common Pitfalls
Introduction	- Describe the relevance - Explain gap between existing knowledge and information needed to attain QI outcomes - Add problem and aim statements	- Too long - Relevance review is longer than evidence gap discussion - Aim statement not clearly included
Methods	- Provide details about project context to connect details on intervention choice, plans for implementation, and how outcomes may be affected - List multiple intervention steps (could discuss using PDSA cycle description) - Provide a family of measures (may include outcome, process, and balancing measures)	- Superficial description with lack of context - No theory supporting reported intervention - Steps reduced to single intervention and single measure to track project impact
Results	Use statistical process control (run or control charts) to demonstrate data presented over time	Data displayed as simple before-after comparisons
Discussion	- Describe a brief summary of most important findings - Place study in context of other similar QI initiatives - Reflect on result implications - Describe lessons learned - Discuss how limitations may impact results - Review future steps	- Limited to implications for local institution/setting only - Results repeated without analyzing and providing a deeper reflection on their implications - Lessons learned during the process omitted instead of included - Listing limitations without providing thoughtful consideration for their potential effects
Conclusion	Summarize key takeaways from study	- Simply suggest “further research is needed” - Overgeneralize study findings to all settings

Publishing

Prior to submitting your manuscript, review examples of published QI literature from your target journal to ensure that your organization and flow align with the selected journal's preference.

Publication venues that are specific to oncology pharmacy include:

- Journal of Hematology Oncology Pharmacy
- JCO Oncology Practice - Quality in Action
- Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice
- HOPA Annual Conference
- HOPA Practice Management
- ASCO Quality Care Symposium

A non-exhaustive list of other potential journals and venues is available at IHI.org.

Conclusion

Sharing the results of your QI project officially wraps up the quality improvement process. Congratulate yourself on successfully completing a QI project!

References

1. Morris MC, Rubin DL, Leventhal JR, et al. Dissemination of quality improvement projects. Am J Med Qual. 2021;36(6):475-481. doi:10.1097/01. JMQ.0000735488.70012.9b
2. Kanter M, Courneya PT. Perspective on publishing quality improvement efforts. Perm J 2017;21:17-140. doi:10.7812/TPP/17-140
3. Kanter M, Courneya PT. Perspective on publishing quality improvement efforts. Perm J 2017;21:17-140. doi:10.7812/TPP/17-140
4. Ogrinc G, Davies L, Goodman D, et al. SQUIRE 2.0: Revised publication guidelines from a detailed consensus process. BMJ Qual Saf. 2015;24(12):991–6. doi:10.1097/NCQ.000000000000153
5. Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence (SQUIRE). SQUIRE 3.0 update. Available from: <https://www.squire-statement.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewpage&pageid=533>
6. Blewett A, DeGregory K. The Rest is Still Unwritten: Quality Improvement Projects – Path from Concept to Publication. HOPA News. 2025; 22(4): 12-14.

Check out all the topics in this series:

QI models and frameworks ~ QI tools ~ Developing QI projects: Understanding the problem, diagnosing the problem, data in quality, defining measures and countermeasures, assessing results ~ Quality indicators and metrics ~ How to teach residents about quality ~ Designing a quality rotation vs longitudinal project ~ Sharing results

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This document was developed by the HOPA Quality Residency Training Committee for informational purposes only.

