

Physician Quality Improvement (PQI) Cohort 11 (2026-27)

Name	Specialty	Community	Project Area(s) of Interest
DYAD A Sal Alraied & <i>Eric Head-Chen</i>	Family Practice <i>Clinical Coordinator, Port McNeill Hospital</i>	Port McNeill	Decreasing the delays in recognizing and responding to high-risk patients who present to Port McNeill Emergency Department (ED) and require transfer to a higher-level of care.
Claire Block	Family Practice	Victoria	Increasing the number of adults who complete their eligible annual preventive health screenings.
DYAD B Mark Cachia & <i>Kristen Ruddick</i>	Public Health <i>A/Manager, Communicable Diseases</i>	Victoria	Improving Latent TB Infection (LTBI) screening, support and treatment for newcomers to Canada.
Megan Cox	Pediatrics	Victoria	To increase the number of cases of babies receiving one hour of uninterrupted skin to skin with their mother at pediatrician-attended deliveries, in cases where both the pediatrician and primary maternity team including midwives, physicians, and LDR nurses all agree that the baby does not require immediate assessment or intervention.
DYAD C Joelle Dennie & <i>Matt Pickard</i>	Obstetrics/ Gynecology <i>Director, Environmental Support Services</i>	Victoria	Environmental sustainability - has several areas of potential project focus: increasing rate of recycling PPE in the OR; reducing unnecessary lab work for elective c-sections (Choosing Wisely); introducing reusable gowns.
Henriques De Sa Ellwanger	Rheumatology	Comox Valley	By July 2027, the amount of patients on Urate Lowering Therapy will increase to 75% by the time I see the patient (in my outpatient Rheumatology practice). Also, increase the number of patients who will already be at serum urate target (of <360umol/L in most patients, and <300umol/L in severe cases) at the time of Rheumatology consultation.
Keerat Dhaliwal	Neonatology	Victoria	To improve hand hygiene rates and decrease the nosocomial spread of Antibiotic-Resistant Organisms (AROs) in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).
Sarah Fraser	Internal Medicine	Port Alberni	2 potential areas for PQI project: 1) Reducing the rates of infant mortality in the Alberni-Clayoquot region (3X higher than other areas) 2) Improving in-community stroke care (none in Port Alberni)
Matthew Harding	Pediatrics, Nephrology	Victoria	Implementing a best practice of using Cystatin C-derived eGFR to better identify and slow progression of Chronic Kidney Disease as well as reduce healthcare costs and unnecessary blood work for children.
DYAD D Ashwin Hegde & <i>Matt Pucsek</i>	Radiology <i>Manager, Medical Imaging</i>	Victoria	Reducing ultrasound wait times for non-urgent exams (currently >500 days with a benchmark of 60 days). This delays pathology, contributes to patient anxiety, and an abundance of imaging that is no longer clinically relevant.

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GROUP Jen Jeans & Laura McLean	Family Practice Respirology, Sleep Medicine	Cowichan Valley	Improving access to care for patients navigating terminal illness with the SATA Centre for Conscious Living.
Dennis Kim	Orthopedic Surgery	Victoria	Improving access to right care in the right place for post-operative patients (reducing the number of patients who are “recovering in the Operating Room” because of lack of beds in Post Anaesthesia Care Unit (PACU)).
Alysha Lust (NP)	Nurse Practitioner	Cowichan Valley	Improving care for peri-menopausal and menopausal women with vaginal estrogen cream; integrating Nurse Practitioners (NPs) into hospitalist teams; QI-training impacts on NP practice.
Vlada Replete	Family Practice	Victoria	General focus on complex patients with complex needs who present to the clinic for episodic care and really require follow-up care - e.g., improving care for insomnia and reducing the prescribing of medications known to be harmful long-term (e.g., benzodiazepines) in favour of others.
Ian Warbrick	Internal Medicine	Port Alberni	Increasing timely, local specialty care for remote Nuuchahnulth communities; Increasing culturally safe, longitudinal primary-specialist integration and administrative capacity.
DYAD D Kyle Wilson & Stephanie Jones	Anaesthesiology <i>Manager, Surgical Services</i>	Nanaimo	Improving clinical outcomes for patients who present to the Emergency Department at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH) and require surgery by decreasing the time from booking to Operating Room (OR) for patients classified as E2 (Emergent) or E3 (Urgent).