

What is this Training Program?

Physician Quality Improvement (PQI) Cohort training is a professional development and education program for community-based and facility-based specialists, family physicians, nurse practitioners and midwives. *Island Health privileges are not required.* The PQI curriculum was specifically designed by Medical Staff for Medical Staff to give you tools you can apply in real time.

It is the only Quality Improvement (QI) education program that offers:

- In-person and virtual workshops across Vancouver Island
- The opportunity to practice the methodology by leading your own QI project with a team
- Dedicated support from experienced physician mentors, staff coordinators and data analysts
- Mainpro+ and MOC section 1 CME accreditation for over 50 hours
- Up to 158 hours of JCC-rate funding (approx. \$27,000) for physicians licensed in B.C.

NB: There are many approaches to improving quality in healthcare (e.g., research, quality assurance, and quality improvement). QI is best applied to improve *existing* systems and processes where you have a great deal of flexibility in *how* a gap in care can be addressed. QI focuses on improvement without net new resources.

- If you already have a *solution* and are looking for support on how to implement it or are looking for funding support for a capital project or new service, you may be better served by service design or project management methodologies that are outside of the mandate of this program.

A few additional resources to review:

- [PQI Program](#) (video, 3mins)
- [Introduction to the PQI Program](#) (audio, 20mins)
- [An Illustrated Look at Quality Improvement in Health Care](#) (video, 8mins)

What are the Application Requirements and Commitments?

Requirement 1: Mandatory Attendance at Workshops and Graduation Events*

- **6** in-person workshops (three 2-day events) – travel and accommodation costs are covered for travel greater than 50km
- **5** virtual workshops
- **2** evening graduation events (attending the Cohort 10 graduation in October 2026 and your own in 2027)

*See [Appendix A: Cohort 11 Requirements: Dates, Workshops and Deliverables](#) for dates and locations.

Requirement 2: Dedicated QI Project Time

- You will spend an average of **3 hours of project work per week** in addition to the time at the workshops (with September, October and June generally being the busiest as your workshops are in-person (travel) and your QI project launches and closes).
- In between workshops, you will have **coaching sessions with PQI team members** (every 2-3 weeks) who will make sure you are on-track for meeting your learning objectives and project requirements.

Requirement 3: Leading and Documenting a QI Project

In this training program, you will lead a QI project of your choosing, and commit to:

- Assembling a local QI project team, *including leadership support and operational sponsorship*
- Applying QI tools to understand the gap in care and project aim
- Developing a QI Project Charter
- Using data and designing measurement plans
- Working alongside a patient partner(s)
- Sharing your project by way of a graduation presentation and poster, and summary report
- Championing QI within your community and department and sharing your knowledge and tools with your colleagues

Who is Eligible?

- All community-based and facility-based licensed physicians in the Island Health region (note: Active privileges with Island Health are **not** required).

Other professionals listed below are welcome to apply, noting expenses and sessional funding are **not** available for non-physicians (e.g., NPs, MWs, healthcare leaders)

- Island Health Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and Midwives
- **NEW For 2026/27:** After a successful pilot, we are pleased to welcome non-physician operational dyads to co-apply the PQI program. If you are a physician who could benefit from having an operational dyad partner on your project, please consider co-applying. Learn more about cohort dyads in our [Cohort Dyad Overview](#).

How will Cohort 11 Learners be Selected?

An interdisciplinary Selection Committee consisting of patients, Specialist Services Committee representatives, clinically active physicians and PQI Program staff will select top applicants based on the following criteria:

Applicant (70% weight). Considerations include:

- Does the applicant demonstrate a passion and mindset that would contribute to a successful learning experience?
- Is there a focus on engaging and empowering patients as part of the application?
- Is there a demonstrated interest in learning about and applying Quality Improvement science to address a gap in care?
- What is the aptitude for building and participating in teams¹?
- Does the applicant bring a unique or diverse perspective to the program?

Area of Interest (30% weight). Considerations include:

- Does the applicant describe potential to improve healthcare quality in a measurable way?
- Is there a focus on improving dimension(s) of quality from a systems' perspective (as per the [BC Health Quality Matrix](#))?
- What is the level of readiness² in the program area or clinical context for a QI project?

¹ In the context of QI, team members can include, but are not limited to, Medical Staff, Medical Office Assistants, Nurses, Patient Partners, Unit Clerks

² Level of readiness can include, but is not limited to, other concurrent changes being implemented, staffing, workload, sphere of control

What is the Application Process?

If you can commit to the application requirements listed above, here are your key dates:

Date	Activity
February 2, 2026	Application period opens
March 13, 2026	Application deadline
March - April, 2026	Consults with the PQI Education Team
May 4, 2026	Offer letters sent to successful applicants
May 16, 2026	Offer letter acceptance deadline

Ready to Apply?

Can you answer “YES!” to the 3 statements below?

1. I can attend [all 13 workshops and events](#).
2. I can dedicate time each week (between Sept 2026-June 2027) to learning and applying QI.
3. I want to address a problem or gap in care in my practice setting using Quality Improvement.

If so, please apply by **March 13, 2026**.

- The Cohort 11 Application Form is digital and will take **approximately 10-15 minutes** to complete.
- [Here is a peek at the questions](#) to help you prepare your submission.

Click here to apply

Have questions? Want help completing the application? Email us at pqi@islandhealth.ca.

If you have not already, check-out our [Physician Quality Improvement website](#), with information about our other training opportunities, our team, past cohort projects and more!

To learn more about the other training opportunities offered through PQI provincially, visit the Specialist Services Committee’s website on the [Physician Quality Improvement Initiative](#).

BLOCK 1 ORIENTATION					August 1 – August 28, 2026
	WORKSHOPS: Optional learning sessions (TBA)		DELIVERABLES: August 28, 2026		
			Complete Orientation Workbook		
BLOCK 2 FUNDAMENTALS & UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM					August 31 – September 25, 2026
	WORKSHOPS: 1. September 10, 2026 0900-1700 2. September 11, 2026 0800-1500		Parksville	DELIVERABLES: September 25, 2026	PQI Charter initiated Project Team confirmed
			Parksville		
BLOCK 3 AIMS, MEASURES & CHANGE IDEAS					September 28, 2026 – January 21, 2027
	WORKSHOPS: 3. October 15, 2026 0800-1500 + 1730-2100 4. October 16, 2026 1000-1500 5. November 19, 2026 1300-1700		Victoria	DELIVERABLES: October 16, 2026	Attend Cohort 10 Grad
			Victoria	December 18, 2026	Driver Diagram, Measurement Plan, QI Ethics review
			Virtual		
BLOCK 4 TESTING CHANGES					January 22 – April 2, 2027
	WORKSHOPS: 6. January 21, 2027 1300-1700 7. February 25, 2027 1300-1700		Virtual	DELIVERABLES: February 26, 2027	Completed PDSA worksheet(s)
			Virtual	March 26, 2027	Project data submitted
BLOCK 5 IMPLEMENTATION, MAINTENANCE, SUSTAINABILITY					April 1 – June 30, 2027
	WORKSHOPS: 8. April 12, 2027 1300-1700 9. June 10, 2027 0900-1700 10. June 11, 2027 0900-1500		Virtual	DELIVERABLES: June 11, 2027	Updated PQI Charter (including data), Driver Diagram, Measurement Plan
			TBD	June 25, 2027	Final project data submitted
BLOCK 6 PROJECT TRANSITION					July 1 – October 31, 2027
	WORKSHOPS: 11. October 1, 2027 1300-1500 12. October 14, 2027 1800-2100		Virtual	DELIVERABLES: July 30, 2027	PQI Charter (Final)
			Victoria	September 10, 2027	Project Summary Report (Final), Project Poster (Final)
				October 13, 2027	Grad Speech (Final)